

Palestinian groups unite to fight accord

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Hardline Palestinian groups announced here on Tuesday a joint "national salvation programme" to fight the self-rule accord. The Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DPLP and PFLP) called on "all groups and individuals devoted to Palestinian national rights and determined to make the accord fail to form a broad national front."

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جوردان نيوز عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراي

Iran reports new bombing bids

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Tuesday it arrested two women attempting to bomb the grave of the Islamic republic's first supreme spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and a holy shrine elsewhere in the country. The reported attempts come less than a month after a June 20 blast at the Imam Reza mausoleum in the eastern city of Mashhad, which killed 26 people. Tehran television quoted a security source as describing the two as "hypocrites," the term used to describe members of Iran's main opposition group, the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq. A Mujahedeen spokesman, Ali Safavi, said by telephone from Paris that the "whole story is a fabrication."

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Queen attends music concert

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attended at Philadelphia Hotel a concert by the American Philadelphian Youth Orchestra. The concert was organized by the National Music Conservatory in cooperation with the American Cultural Centre and Rawdat Al Maaref School. The orchestra will have another performance at the hotel Wednesday.

Princess Basma tours centres in south

MAAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma toured three social service centres in Maan Governorate and was briefed on the services they offer to mothers and children. The centres, run by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, are in Hussainiah, Maan and Mreigha. Princess Basma visited the rural markets set up in these centres, which sell the products of rural women. The Princess said citizens' cooperation and involvement is essential for helping the centres achieve their objectives in developing local communities.

Palestinians plan 30,000 homes in Gaza

JERICHO (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) announced Tuesday it would help build up to 30,000 housing units to cope with chronic overcrowding on the Gaza Strip and provide 25,000 jobs. The Palestinian authority held a historic meeting today. Cooperation and Planning Minister Nabil Shaath told a press conference. "It was decided to assist in the building of 25,000-30,000 housing units in the Gaza Strip. The people will be allowed to add another storey to each house and the authority will try to raise loans to finance private building," he added. "It will help solve the housing problem and provide work for 25,000 people for six months to a year." Unemployment is estimated at around 50 per cent and about 325,000 of the 800,000 Gazans live in refugee camps in single storey-housing. According to the World Bank the number of persons per room is 2.4 on the Strip.

Nazareth mayor killed in car crash

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The mayor of Nazareth, Tawfik Ziad a member of the Israeli parliament, died in a car crash on Tuesday as he left Jericho after the visit to the self-rule enclave by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, police said. Ziad, 64, a communist and well-known Arabic poet, met Mr. Arafat in Gaza City over the weekend and joined the festivities again in Jericho. An Israeli-Arab, he sat in parliament for the Hadash communist party which has three members. He had been mayor of Nazareth since 1975. "For us, Palestinians of 1948, this is a victory, for we struggled so long for a peaceful solution and a Palestinian state," he told Mr. Arafat. The accident happened near the Jewish settlement of Misbor Adumim on the climb up from Jericho to Jerusalem.

18 charged with killing Copt officer

CAIRO (AFP) — Eighteen suspected militants were charged Tuesday with stabbing a Coptic school principal and shooting dead an officer in two separate incidents last October, legal sources said. The Egyptian state prosecutor charged that the militants, including Fakhry Sirgus, the principal of a Suez language school, for days before stabbing him to death on October 13, 1993. The 18, four of whom are on the run, were also charged with rioting outside the Nur Al Islam mosque in Suez last October.

Sanaa claims seizure of most of Aden and Mukalla

Combined agency dispatches

NORTHERN YEMENI forces claimed Tuesday to have taken control of most of Aden as they reportedly unleashed one of the heaviest artillery barrages yet on the southern port city, killing at least 30 people and wounding 51.

Shells crashed into Hotel Aden, where foreign journalists and relief officials were staying, injuring two French physicians with the international aid group Doctors Without Borders, according to the Kuwait News Agency. One physician was seriously injured and in hospital.

The agency, which has a correspondent in the city, quoted an unidentified southern security official as saying the source of the shelling was six tanks about 20 kilometres north of Aden's Khormaksar neighbourhood.

However, the north claimed its troops and tanks battled their way into Aden's outlying neighbourhoods and were in control of most of the city by midday.

Northern forces also captured the airport in the southern port of Mukalla in fierce hand-to-hand fighting on Tuesday, a government spokesman said.

Northern officials also said their forces had seized control of the airport in Aden.

"Government forces took control of the airport in Riyan following violent fighting during which machineguns and knives were used," the spokesman said. The spokesman added northern troops were continuing "to advance towards the town of Sayyun," the second largest city in the Hadramawt province, about 80 kilometres north of Mukalla.

He also said several officers and southern pilots had "given themselves up and others joined government forces."

Sanaa Radio said earlier that northern forces had taken full control of the city of Mukalla, about 15 kilometres west of the airport, and were heading toward the airstrip used by southern warplanes.

Southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh has been based in Mukalla, 700 kilometres east of Aden, since shortly after war broke out in May.

But a Gulf diplomat in radio contact with Mukalla said fighting was going on about 10 kilometres west of Mukalla in Fuh and Borum, and that the airport continued to function as normal.

He added that Mr. Beidh had taken charge of the military operation to defend the city.

Earlier Tuesday a military spokesman said: "Governmental forces have total control over Aden's airport, the Khormaksar district and the dyke linking the town to Little Aden."

Northern troops advanced to within three kilometres of Aden city centre near the airport, an AFP correspondent reported.

The military spokesman said: "Government forces are at the entrance of the old city and the Maala district and Tawahi port area," which he

said "will fall to the forces of legality in the next few hours."

Aden airport, used by southern warplanes to launch raids on advancing northern troops, has been the target of northern bombardments for several days in an attempt to neutralise it.

The foreign minister of the breakaway southern Yemeni state said on that peace talks in New York no longer served any purpose and the southern delegation was thinking of pulling out.

Foreign Minister Abdullah Al Asnaj, in a written statement delivered to Reuters in Cairo, again accused the northern government in Sanaa of talking peace while waging war.

"The talks in New York are no longer useful because of Ali Abdullah Saleh's insistence on expanding the scope of the war to cover up his large losses in men and material," Mr. Asnaj wrote.

"This obliges the (southern) democratic republic of Yemen to warn it might withdraw its delegation from New York," he added.

Northern Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani and southern Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas met under U.N. auspices in New York three times last week but there was no sign they were making progress on a ceasefire monitoring system.

Mr. Asnaj has been in New York with Mr. Attas, southern Yemeni officials in Cairo said. It was not immediately clear if there had been any meetings at the United Nations over long U.S. weekend.

The fall of Aden would almost certainly herald the final chapter of the war with imminent victory for the north in its campaign to quash southern Yemen's hopes of seceding after four years of union.

Thousands of people are believed to have died since war broke out on May 4, after issues left unresolved in the 1990 unity agreement between North and South Yemen erupted into an irreconcilable feud between their leaders, Ali Abdullah Saleh and Mr. Beidh.

Diplomats have warned that a front in the centre of the crowded port city could mean bloody street battles and a skyrocketing civilian death toll. Already, hundreds have been killed in the past few weeks as northern forces encroached on the former South Yemen capital, where about 400,000 citizens and refugees were enduring shortages of water, food and medical supplies.

Relief and U.N. officials have described the health situation in Aden as perilous. The push on Aden came despite warnings from the United States and Saudi Arabia, the regional power on the Arabian Peninsula and Yemen's neighbour, to spare the beleaguered city.

Mr. Saleh has been hoping to conquer Aden to thwart any expectation among Arab Gulf states that the breakaway country proclaimed May 20 by Mr. Beidh could become a viable nation.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat waves to Palestinian crowds after landing in Jericho on Tuesday (AFP photo)

Arafat swears in ministers in Jericho

From Mariam Shahin in Jericho with Agency dispatches

Combined agency dispatches

PALESTINE LEADER Yasser Arafat capped a historic return visit to his homeland Tuesday with a flyover that skirted Jerusalem on his way to swear in his self-rule cabinet.

Thousands of Palestinians gave Mr. Arafat a joyous welcome as an Egyptian military helicopter brought him to the West Bank for the first time in 27 years.

Heavily guarded by at least 500 Palestinian policemen and security personnel, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman, who now holds the title of president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), walked towards a large podium hand in hand with Faisal Hussein, the PNA leader from Jerusalem who is still a minister without portfolio.

Evidently tired after a four-day inauguration visit to the self-rule area in Gaza, Mr. Arafat waved to a cheering and chanting crowd of about 6,000 Palestinians who turned out to welcome him. Nineteen roadblocks set up by Israeli settlers who burned tires and lay down in the streets prevented Palestinians from other parts of the West Bank, still under Israeli occupation, from coming to greet the president.

Evidently disturbed by the relatively small crowd, Mr. Arafat asked in a hoarse voice "Why, why have the Israelis closed the streets from Jerusalem?"

Much like in his initial homecoming speech in Gaza, Mr. Arafat stressed Palestinian unity and reconciliation. "My people, my family, all my family, the people of my tribe, the people of my beloved Palestine... we are a noble nation," he said to the enthusiastic crowd that tore down two barbed wire fences to get a closer look at their leader.

"We say to all the martyrs and to the price of all martyrs Abu Jihad... that a promise is a promise and an oath is an oath," Mr. Arafat said referring to the PLO slogans promising its people that they will return to their homeland.

A woman overcome with emotion pushed through at least ten lines of security guards to climb on the podium and kiss Mr. Arafat. Remcomposing himself after the surprise kiss Mr. Arafat

- HERE IS the list of the 15 ministers appointed so far to the new Palestinian Authority, 12 of whom swore an oath of office with Mr. Arafat in Jericho on Tuesday:
- Planning and international cooperation: Nabil Shaath
 - Economy and trade: Ahmad Qouria
 - Finance: Mohammad Zuhdi Nashashibi
 - Justice: Fathi Abu Midein
 - Housing: Zakaria Al Agba
 - Arts and culture: Yasser Abed Rabbo
 - Health: Riyad Al Zaanun
 - Education: Yasser Amer
 - Tourism and Archaeology: Elias Freij
 - Labour: Samir Ghoshe
 - Telecommunications: Abdul Hafiz Al Ashab
 - Local government: Saeb Erakat
 - Youth and sports: Azmi Al Shobei
 - Social affairs: Intissar Al Wazir
 - Transport and communications: Abdul Aziz Al Haj Ahmad

Two ministers without portfolios are Faisal Hussein and Munib Al Masri.

The three ministers absent from the swearing-in ceremony were Mr. Qouria who was on a visit to the United States, and Mr. Abed Rabbo and Mr. Ghoshe who were in Tunisia.

Under the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord signed in Cairo on May 4, the new authority is to have 24 members. Twenty candidates have been named so far, and 18 have accepted to join the authority which includes Mr. Arafat as chairman.

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(Continued on page 12)



Rawhi Al Khatib

Rawhi Al Khatib dies at 81

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Tuesday mourned the death of Rawhi Al Khatib, former mayor of Jerusalem, who passed away at the age of 81.

Khatib was born in Jerusalem in 1914. He graduated from the English College in Jerusalem in 1936. Khatib established the Arab Office in Jerusalem in 1945.

In 1948 he was elected mayor of the Holy City and in 1957 he was appointed mayor of Jerusalem, a post which he kept until his death.

Khatib was expelled from Jerusalem in 1967, following the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

In 1993, Khatib returned to his birthplace after 25 years of exile in Amman.

Rabin vows to push ahead for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Tuesday his government would push for peace with the Arabs despite Israeli protest against Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's return to Gaza and Jericho.

"With all the protests and with all the shouting we will continue with the peace process. We got a mandate from the people and we will go on with it," Mr. Rabin told Israel's largest trade union federation.

Israeli hardliners opposed to Rabin's peace moves with the PLO have taken to the streets since Thursday night in often stormy protests against Mr. Arafat's arrival in Palestinian-ruled Gaza and Jericho.

"(We) want to continue the process, to continue to reach a reconciliation with the Palestinians, with Jordan, with Syria and with Lebanon and for this purpose we are ready to take risks upon ourselves for the sake of great prospects," Mr. Rabin said.

The head of Israel's Labour Party, Mr. Rabin cited the example of his hard-line Likud Party rival, the late prime minister Menachem Begin, who returned all of the Sinai to Egypt.

"We want to continue the breakthrough to peace made by Prime Minister Menachem Begin, may he rest in peace, who was ready to return all of Sinai, to uproot all the settlements in Sinai for peace," Mr. Rabin said.

A top Palestinian official said meanwhile Israel had upgraded its delegation for talks in Paris which would now cover redeployment of Israeli troops in the West Bank and an early transfer of authority.

Nabil Shaath, a member of the new Palestinian self-rule authority, said the meeting in Paris on Wednesday between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin was the "kick-off" of talks to finalise the interim agreement on limited self-rule

agreement. The agenda items will include the transfer of civilian authority in the West Bank and the early application of those spheres agreed upon, the redeployment of Israeli forces from Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank, and the deployment of Palestinian police," Dr. Shaath told a news conference after Mr. Arafat swore in authority members.

"It will be the first high-level negotiations since the signing of the Gaza-Jericho accord in Cairo (in May)," Dr. Shaath said.

Israel told the PLO on Monday it was upgrading its delegation to 10 members including Mr. Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In Paris, Mr. Arafat is expected to plead for urgent world financial aid.

Fresh from his triumphant return to Palestinian soil after 27 years of exile and struggle, the PLO chairman will use a U.N. platform to appeal to donors to hasten promised aid for the new Palestinian authority before disenchantment sets in, diplomats said.

Mr. Arafat, Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres will be in France to receive the U.N. Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisations' (UNESCO) peace prize, named after the late Ivory Coast President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The prize, worth 800,000 francs (\$150,000), was awarded only days after last September's historic Israel-PLO agreement.

Wednesday's ceremony at UNESCO headquarters also provides an opportunity for the three men to discuss the next stage in the peace process following Mr. Arafat's historic trip.

So far, they have scheduled only a one-hour working session on Wednesday but officials on both sides said the leaders might hold more talks during the night after meeting French President Francois Mitterrand and attending a dinner given by UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor.

Mitterrand, Mandela mobbed in Soweto

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Enthusiastic crowds waving French and South African flags lined smog-ridden streets in Soweto township Tuesday to greet French President Francois Mitterrand and his host, President Nelson Mandela.

Undeterred by the acrid late-afternoon smoke that made eyes stream and throats choke, the crowds mobbed a 30-car motorcade as the two leaders arrived at an Alliance Francaise training centre at Kliptown squatter camp, in the heart of the sprawling black township south of here.

Security officials were forced to slam shut the huge steel gates to the complex when the crowds surged forward, shouting "Viva Mandela" and "Viva France."

After touring the Thupelo Training Centre for a look at welding and sewing classes, Mr. Mitterrand was presented with a two-piece dress for his wife, made by

students, and with a book on South African artifacts. The two leaders then made their way to nearby Avalon cemetery, where Mr. Mitterrand met Dorothy Molefi, the mother of Hector Pietersen, the 12-year-old who was the first to fall to police bullets in the Soweto uprising of 1976.

Backed by a Salvation Army band and watched by dozens of Soweto students gathered in the gloom at the graveyard, Mr. Mitterrand laid a wreath of roses and blue irises on Pietersen's grave.

As the motorcade later sped through dusty township streets towards Johannesburg and a sumptuous banquet at a luxury hotel, Sowetans who had been waiting in the smog for more than an hour broke into loud roars of approval.

"This is good for the new South Africa," said a woman who gave her name as Mbongile.

Settlers block roads to Jericho against Palestinians

From Mariam Shahin in Jericho with Agency dispatches

ISRAELI SETTLERS evoked God's help to disrupt the visit of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Tuesday hours before his arrival by helicopter to this hot and dusty oasis town of some 17,000 people.

Lying on the roads to the entrance of Jericho and chanting prayers, protesting settlers set up 19 road blocks to prevent up to 100,000 Palestinians from all parts of the West Bank from entering the city which was preparing to welcome the president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Saeb Erakat, the minister of municipal and local governments told the Jordan Times: "From the Nabulus-Jericho road 120 buses were turned back by the Israeli authorities. They are not allowing people to leave their towns and villages, they do not want them to come and greet the president."

Tayyeb Abdul Rahim, the former Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, who holds the portfolio for the minister for presidential affairs, said that: "All roads to Jerusalem have been closed."

A few moments before the helicopter carrying Mr. Arafat made a dusty landing

metres away from a podium arranged specifically for the homecoming ceremony, dignitaries from Tel Aviv based foreign embassies and Jerusalem-based consulates and non-governmental organisations arrived and took their seats. Among the first dignitaries to arrive was Rabbi Moshe Hirsh, the spiritual leader of the non-Zionist Jewish sect Neturei Karta.

Rabbi Hirsh told reporters that he hopes to become minister for Jewish affairs in the PNA. "After all, we are Palestinians and we have come here today to welcome our leader home," he said.

Yehuda Meshi Zahav, a senior figure in the anti-Zionist Satmar community warned Rabbi Hirsh not to set foot in the ultra-orthodox Jewish quarter of Jerusalem.

"I advise Rabbi Hirsh to stay in Jericho. He who treats with assassins, deserves, according to tradition, to be stoned and covered in tar," Mr. Zahav told reporters.

Neturei Karta opposes the state of Israel. Rabbi Hirsh embraced Mr. Arafat on the cheeks as did two of his young disciples at the Jericho reception.

Rabbi Hirsh, who calls

himself the Neturei Karta's foreign minister, told Israel radio he had refused to take the oath of office along with Mr. Arafat on Tuesday because it was "contrary to the laws of Judaism."

Israeli troops and police deployed in strength and intervened with force to keep the roads open to Jericho.

At Mitzepe Karta several hundred settlers clashed with security forces who used a bulldozer to clear flaming tyres and rocks from the road which had been strewn with nails.

A convoy of a dozen buses and cars heading for Jericho was held up for about an hour as long queues formed. Settlers had set little girls in the bulldozer's shovel and lay down on the highway.

Among the convoy, which nonetheless reached Jericho in time, were Palestinian minister Faisal Hussein and former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

Police waded into the crowd and arrested about 10 people as settlers spat at the vehicles, tore down Arafat pictures and hurled stones and insults in the hills a dozen kilometres from the West Bank oasis.

Turkey hopeful of pipeline deal despite obstacles

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Turkey's U.N. ambassador believes the Security Council will approve a complicated Iraqi-Turkish oil deal within two weeks but concedes two obstacles still remain.

Ambassador Inal Butu has told a small group of reporters he hoped the first draft of the resolution could go before the council as early as Wednesday, after a senior Foreign Ministry official, Turkel Kurttekin, goes to Washington again to discuss the text.

A 985-kilometre pipeline between Turkey and Iraq has been idle and rusting since sanctions were imposed on Baghdad after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. Turkey wants to repair it and needs Iraq's consent to empty out about 27 million barrels in several flushings of the line.

Turkey says Iraq owes it 3.8 million barrels. Iraq would be reimbursed for the remainder of the estimated \$300 million by receiving humanitarian goods that are not barred under sanctions.

Baghdad had consented to several major conditions set by the United States and others on the deal — paying 30 per cent of the worth of oil into a U.N. compensation fund for Gulf war victims and putting all proceeds into a U.N. escrow account before they are distributed.

But it still objects to restrictions on buying and distributing the relief supplies. Another unsolved problem is Russian opposition to the deal.

Mr. Butu emphasised again the Turkey would not sell the oil but keep the 27 million barrels for its own use.

Nevertheless the potential deal means Turkey would buy that much less oil on the world market.

Washington is eager to

accommodate Turkey but at the same time wants to make sure sanctions stay in place against Iraq.

Nevertheless the pipeline deal does ease sanctions for about six months and allows the first legal Iraqi oil flow in almost four years.

Although Iraq will probably get less than \$200 million from the deal the psychological value is considerable.

"The whole world will get a message that things are moving forward for Iraq," Mr. Butu said.

In addition, he said, the deal is a "very important investment for Iraq" as they would need the pipeline once sanctions are lifted permanently.

"And it will be important for any progress in our bilateral relations. It will be an important gesture on their part if they agree," he added.

Mr. Butu refused to estimate the worth of the oil, saying the 12 million barrels in the pipeline now would have to be tested for quality first. The ambassador said Turkey would be able to begin the flushing and repair process within two weeks, about the time he expects the resolution to be adopted.

Turkish and U.S. officials have been optimistic in public about a deal for several months now while privately listing all the obstacles. But Mr. Butu said: "We now have overcome two of the thorny issues and everyone realises that at this stage we must have an agreement."

The food and medical supplies are to be "distributed equitably" among all Iraqis, including the Kurds in the north, not under Baghdad's control. Iraq objects to such wording in any council resolution as an illegal infringement of its sovereignty, diplomats said.

Some Yemeni prisoners conscripted off street

DAR SAAD, Yemen (R) — Southern Yemenis defending the besieged city of Aden include young men conscripted off the streets with no training and little will to fight, according to prisoners captured by northern forces.

"We didn't know where we were, we didn't know how to use the weapons," Issam Salem Mohammad, 23, told reporters who visited the battlefield round the southern port from the northern Yemeni capital on Monday.

He said he was a jeweller from Aden's Crater district who had been picked up on the street when he ventured out of his home on Sunday, given a grenade launcher, taken to the northern suburbs of Aden and ordered to go forward.

"We saw a group of soldiers and when we found out they belonged to the government forces we gave them our weapons and surrendered," he said.

"People in Aden want an end to this war at any price," Mr. Mohammad said. Northern and southern Yemenis formed in 1990, have been locked in civil war since May 4 after a long dispute over the balance of power between the two.

Aden, capital of a self-declared southern state fighting to leave the union, is besieged by northern forces.

Reporters visiting the front, where southern air raids and artillery fire were pounding areas held by the north, met Mohammad, wearing a red shirt and with a bandage on his right hand, on the outskirts of Dar Saad, nine kilometres north of Aden airport.

A tall, well-built man, he looked relaxed, smoking and chewing kat, the stimulant leaf loved by most Yemenis, with a group of northern soldiers.

With him was Wissam Salim, 18, a student from Crater who was also captured on Monday. His story gave a similar picture of defenders of Aden in severe straits militarily.

"I had been staying off the streets for a month but I was picked up at Al Mualla (an area of central Aden) on Sunday when I went out to get water for my family and was sent to the front," said Salim, who was wearing a green shirt.

Soldiers in the area said they had captured eight other southerners on Monday whom reporters did not see.



An Israeli border guard (in the background) runs towards a Jewish settler who is burning tyres in order to block the road to Jericho during a visit there by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (AFP photo)

Settlers sit tight in Gaza

By John West

REUTERS
Kfar Darom, Gaza Strip — Jewish settlers who now see Palestinian leaders Yasser Arafat passing their front door almost daily say they will sit tight, show the Arabs they are strong, and wait for an Israeli government that backs them.

But two years of neglect by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government, which sees settlers as an obstacle to Israeli-Palestinian peace, have taken a toll at this settlement 15 kilometres south of Gaza City.

Many bungalows stand empty, weeds have crept over lawns, the shell of a half-finished house lies abandoned and the midday hush contrasts sharply with Gaza's bustle outside the gate.

"I looked for Arafat but I didn't see him because he slipped past like a cat," said 26-year-old Shlomo, who watched the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader's motorcade file past the settlement on Friday and Sunday.

"We just have to show the Arabs we are strong. They will understand that and then we can all live in peace," added the administrator, whose parents emigrated to Palestine from Algeria after the French left.

Settler groups say there are about 4,000 Israelis registered as living in 17 settlements in the Gaza Strip, surrounded by a million Arabs.

Palestinians and foreigners living in Gaza say many may not stay there full-time.

Settlers accuse the Rabin government, which crushed the hardline Likud party in 1992 elections by promising to divert funding from the settlements to social causes in Israel, of trying to "dry up" the Jewish enclaves.

The Likud dented the West Bank with settlements in an open effort to complicate future efforts to trade occupied Arab land for peace.

But rightists found it harder to attract Jews to settle in the Strip, a bastion of militant resistance to Israeli rule.

At Kfar Darom, right on Gaza's main north-south highway, officials say there are 32 families living in what now, since the beginning of Palestinian self-rule, amounts to total isolation from Israel.

Houses of a neighbouring Palestinian refugee camp are built right up to the fence that encircles the settlement.

The settlers are heavily armed but said that despite all their precautions a rabbi had been killed there two years ago.

To mark the arrival in Gaza of the man they blame for Palestinian attacks on Jews, settlers painted two huge signs saying "Arafat-Hitler" in English to greet the PLO leader as he made his way north from Rafah to Gaza City on Friday.

"I don't even want to say his name," said Eliezer Barak, manager of a vegetable packaging operation in the settlement.

"Everything may seem the same here but it is not. We have a jeep now which drives round inside the settlement at night."

"Didn't you see the 'terrorists' lining the road outside?" he asked, referring to Palestinian police manning a nearby roadblock.

He said five more families were expected to move in soon.

The settlement looked quiet and rundown on Monday.

Six women wearing hairnets stood packing lettuce and cucumbers into boxes at the plant. Old, rusted toys littered the walkway between houses and many of the bungalows looked uninhabited.

A 14-room administration building stood abandoned and stripped of all furniture, toilet paper in the dirty lavatories the only sign it was still being used.

Weeds a metre high sprang over what was once a basketball court in the sand. A drinks-vending machine stood under a tree, unconnected and gathering dirt.

Outside, Palestinians worked on a half-built bridge to link the two parts of the settlement which straddle the road. Such bridges were written into the security agreement between the PLO and Israel signed in Cairo and which the settlers see as part of their betrayal by the Rabin government.

Palestinian station short on funds, long on hope

JERICHO (R) — The director of the new Palestinian radio station in Jericho said on Monday he was sure it was being heard loud and clear from the lowest town on earth — listeners have begun phoning in with praise and complaints.

"We got phone calls, saying, 'this is a historic moment,' and 'we were waiting for this,' but there are also people who say, 'this song is good' and 'this song is no good,'" said Bassam Abu Sumayya, general director of the Voice of Palestine.

It is the first Palestinian radio in the West Bank since Israel seized the area in the 1967 Middle East war.

Broadcasting from the new Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho since Saturday — a day after Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat began a landmark visit to Gaza — it is on the air twice a day for three hours at a time.

"This is the first time in the occupied territories that Palestinians have had their own voice," Mr. Abu Sumayya said. "We are under examination. We have to do very well to succeed."

The station's first real test was to be on Tuesday, when it was to broadcast all day to cover Mr. Arafat's visit to Jericho.

The other enterprise of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), a television station, was to make its debut on Tuesday, when it teams up with a French network to bring pictures of Mr. Arafat's visit to the town's residents.

Mr. Abu Sumayya said Palestinians in both self-rule areas and the West Bank can hear the radio broadcasts, which for now are being sent from a \$2,000-a-month rented house on the outskirts of Jericho, 258 metres below sea level.

The PBC avoids reception problems by beaming its signal to a transmitter situated in a billy region of the West Bank, near the town of Ramallah north of Jerusalem.

Eventually, the Voice of Palestine will have a news and public-interest format. Mr. Abu Sumayya, a former West Bank reporter for a French Arabic station, hopes to have correspondents in Israel and Arab countries.

But the PBC has virtually no money, relying on about 20 volunteers and equipment donated by European countries.

Inside the spare three-storey house, three rows of blue tiles still line the wall of a converted bathroom in which volunteers Mohammad Assadi chose Monday afternoon's music selections.

"I have to help in order to build and establish our state," said Mr. Assadi, 24. "I can do without the money."

He said the station's first test was to be on Tuesday, when it was to broadcast all day to cover Mr. Arafat's visit to Jericho.

Turkish Kurd villagers allege repression, say they plan flight

CIZRE, Turkey (R) — Hassan, a 72-year-old Kurdish farmer, plans to abandon his birthplace this month and trek across the mountains into northern Iraq, clearly visible from his windswept village in southeast Turkey.

Hassan says his village near Cizre is under threat from Turkish soldiers and he only wants to harvest his wheat before uprooting his family and leaving.

"The Turkish soldiers told us that either we go or we will be killed. We have no choice but to flee," he said.

U.N. officials say about 6,000 Turkish Kurds have already fled across the border in recent months. The refugees accuse Turkish troops of forcibly evacuating or burning their villages.

Ankara denies the charge and says outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrillas are orchestrating the exodus of Turkish Kurds to northern Iraq for propaganda purposes.

The handful of people still here said troops visited the village at night about six weeks ago, rounded up its 300 residents and told them they would be shot unless they left.

The villagers ignored the warning. Two weeks ago, the soldiers returned with tanks and opened fire. People got the message.

Now the village has been reduced to bullet-pocked buildings, shattered windows and metal doors clanging in the wind.

"The soldiers said that

once we left they would burn down all the houses so no-one from the United Nations or Europe would ever know what had happened here," said Hassan.

"I built my house with my own hands and if I could, I rebuild this whole village right now so everyone could return. But the soldiers would never let us," he added.

Like so many others throughout the southeast, this village of wheat farmers nestled below the Cudi mountains is a victim of the competing pressures of Kurdish rebels and Turkish security forces.

The human rights association in Diyarbakir says Turkish troops and state-paid Kurdish militiamen have

totally or partly emptied about 400 villages in the first five months of the year.

Human rights activists say the security forces have forcibly evacuated 1,200 villages about 10 per cent of all those in the southeast, since 1991. Many houses have been burned down.

They say the Turkish forces sometimes evict villagers who refuse to join the pro-government village guard militia or whom they suspect of giving succour to PKK militants in the hills.

"If someone comes with a gun and asks you for bread you have no choice," said a man in one partly-burned village. "But should we be thrown out of our homes because we feed someone?"

Turkish officials say villages are sometimes hit by PKK attacks or damaged in crossfire, but deny that soldiers are systematically driving people out or setting homes ablaze.

"The regional governor has the right to evacuate villages for security reasons, but he has never used that authority," said Ahmet Erturk, a deputy to the Diyarbakir-based regional governor for the 13 southeastern provinces under emergency rule.

But Kurds interviewed in a dozen villages around the region said the pressure was coming more from Turkish troops and their local militia allies than from the PKK.

The government says it's the guerrillas hurting us. Well

Dostum commander defects to Rabbani

KABUL (AP) — An opposition militia commander of 58 of his soldiers defected to the president's forces Tuesday, the latest success for the government army in the Afghan civil war.

Abdul Raheem, a brigade commander in warlord Rashid Dostum's militia, abandoned his post in eastern outskirts of Kabul which has been under attack by the president's army, a state security official said.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's forces have scored a number of key triumphs in the past 10 days, driving back General Dostum and his ally, the rebellious Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, from the southern and eastern edges of the city.

The opposition forces, however, remain close enough to shell the city, and scores of rockets rain down on Kabul most days.

Abdul Raheem said he and his men decided to change sides because they were upset with Mr. Hekmatyar and his soldiers.

"The forces of Hekmatyar are bandits," he told a journalist shortly after he defected. "Hekmatyar's only purpose is his quest for power."

"Many observers have questioned the strength of the Hekmatyar-Dostum alliance. The two men were enemies for years before joining forces at the end of last year and launching a Jan. 1 offensive to oust the president."

Gen. Dostum, an ex-member of the former communist army, and Mr. Hekmatyar, a Muslim fundamentalist, have little in common except a mutual desire to push Mr. Rabbani from power.

Abdul Raheem claimed that his men and other members of the Dostum militia have come under attack by Mr. Hekmatyar's men though they are supposed to be fighting on the same side.

Nine factions are involved in the Afghan civil war, but none is strong enough to eliminate all its rivals. The groups fought as a loose coalition to drive out the Soviet forces in 1989 and topple the communist government in 1992. They have fought among themselves for the past two years, demolishing much of Kabul.

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00	Tao-Tao
17:30	N.B.A. sport
18:30	News in French
19:00	Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
21:10	Coach
21:30	The World of Thirties
22:30	Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

03:56	Fajr
05:31	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:40	Dhuhr
16:21	Asr
19:58	Maghrib
21:54	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlah, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 63785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 62490
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 63740.
De la Salle Church Tel. 601757
Terrence Church Tel. 62256
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 62541.
Anglican Church Tel. 63051, Tel. 62543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 62528.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.
Churches speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.	19/31
Amman	25/39
Aqaba	25/32
Desert	25/32
Jordan Valley	24/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30 Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent. Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Jamil Tarif 794710
Dr. Abbas Hakeim 883446
Dr. Fayed Dabbas 791555
Dr. Youssef Raashed 896301
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fendows pharmacy 728336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairoj pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Smeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairoj pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ali Al Shooqan 246140
Al Oada pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ramez Attallah 864424
Khulief pharmacy 585417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 621111 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 124
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 661131
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636781
RJ Flight Information 663320
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 663320

ACROSS JORDAN

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816

AKABIA MATERNITY, J. AMN 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 656140
Palestine Shomran 6641714
Shomran Hospital 669131
University Hospital 858945
Al-Musharraf Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajra 7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafiah 77511126
Army, Ma'arka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 6622-050
Ansal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)86732
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)90050
Greek Catholic Hospital (09)90672
Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)90909
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)72257
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)347106
AQABA:
Proenza Haya Hospital (03)31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by

13:05 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GP)
15:05 Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
15:20 Algiers (AH)
16:25 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:30 Beirut (ME)
21:30 Dubai (EK)
23:25 Amsterdam (KL)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45	Larnaca (RJ)
10:25	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
16:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15	Madrid (RJ)
17:25	Agadir, Casablanca (RJ)
18:25	Riyadh (RJ)
18:25	Istanbul (RJ)
19:40	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:25	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
20:00	Rome (RJ)
06:40	Beirut (RJ)
01:20	Cairo (RJ)
03:00	Riyadh (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:30	Beirut, Paris (AF)
09:15	Bombay (ME)
12:15	Rome (AZ)
12:15	Larnaca (CY)
13:00	Jeddah (SV)
14:00	Cairo (GP)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
16:15	Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
22:30	Algiers, Sharjah (AH)
06:25	Dubai (EK)
06:25	Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	520/380
Apricots	750/500
Banana	600
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	140/80
Carrot	260/180
Cherry	1300/700
Cauliflower	160/100
Cucumbers (large)	90/40
Cucumbers (small)	150/80
Eggplant	110/50
Fig	500/250
Garlic	500/250
Grapes	550/350
Lemon	450/300
Marrow (large)	80/40
Marrow (small)	160/80
Mulukhiyah	120/60
Okra	680/500
Orange	460/360
Onion (dry)	180/100
Sweet Melon	240/180
Peppercorn	420/250
Peppercorn (small)	300/190
Potato	380/250
Potatoes	600/550
Tomato	110/50
String beans	460/360
Watermelon	90/60



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday meets a delegation from the International Journalists Organisation (Petra photo)

Majali meets with journalists group, says press can help correct failures

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday said Jordan welcomes any international action or effort aimed at protecting human rights.

Speaking during a meeting with a three-person delegation from the International Journalists Organisation (IJO), headed by Gerard Latnot, Dr. Majali said societies in general tend to highlight their achievements and conceal their failures, and this is the area where the press, as the fourth power, can disclose such failures so that corrective measures can be adopted.

The three-member delegation arrived here Sunday on a week-long visit to Jordan to prepare for the IJO's 12th conference which will be held here in December.

Dr. Majali welcomed the convening of the conference in Amman saying it will give participants an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on Jordan.

Mr. Gerard, who is the secretary general of the IJO said the selection of Amman as the venue for the forthcoming meeting is a gesture of appreciation to the freedom which press in Jordan enjoys.

He added that the meeting also seeks to highlight Jordan as a model in the region for the freedom of press.

Mr. Gerard added that holding the meeting in Amman is a good occasion for the organisation to celebrate the positive developments which have recently been achieved in the region, especially the significant process on the path of solving the Palestine problem.

Journalists from 120 countries will participate in the conference, organised by the IJO in cooperation with the Jordan Press Association.

Tuesday's meeting was attended by Information Minister Jawad Anani.

Jordanian-Palestinian holding company hopes to attract \$1b in investments

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian-Palestinian holding company, which was established almost two months ago at a capital of \$200 million, hopes to be able to attract \$1 billion worth of Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab investments over the next five years, according to the company's chairman of the Board of Directors Kamal Shaer.

Dr. Shaer made the statement following a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who praised the company's efforts and its plans.

The company, known as the Palestine Company for Development and Investment, plans to establish new concerns in the occupied

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Dr. Majali encouraged the company's plans, according to Finance Minister Sami Gammoh who attended the meeting along with Information Minister Jawad Anani, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf and members of the company's board of directors.

In a statement, Mr. Gammoh said the premier welcomed cooperation between the company and the Jordan Oil Refinery Company and Amman Financial Market.

He said Dr. Majali also welcomed the joint coordination in setting up tourism projects and attracting private sector investments.

The minister stressed the importance of economic cooperation, particularly at this time when large economic blocs are being established. "Whenever the markets are bigger, the economic projects will be bigger, more profitable and successful," Mr. Gammoh said.

Member of the company's board Nabil Sarraf said the company plans to establish industrial and tourism projects covering all parts of the occupied territories.

The company's permanent headquarters will be in Amman, but it will open a real estate company in Gaza, an industrial company in Nablus and a tourism company in Jerusalem, according to Dr. Shaer.

Zarqa woman missing for 2 weeks

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Police and family members are looking for a 20-year-old Zarqa woman who has been reported missing for more than 15 days.

Hiam, the third daughter of Mohammad Abdullah, a retired merchant who lives in Al Ghwerieh Street in Zarqa, left her place of employment and did not return home on June 21, her uncle Ahmad Abdullah said.

He told the Jordan Times that Hiam, who has been married for a year, had some problems with her 23-year-old husband, who, according to the uncle, physically abused Hiam.

"At the same time, he added, he was forcing her to find a job. He said Hiam found a job at a private communications company in Zarqa, but told her father she was working in a different place.

Mr. Abdullah said that Hiam's family wanted to divorce her from her husband because he was mistreating her, but her husband refused.

"When her father went to get her from her job to go to the court, the girl became frightened and ran away," he said.

The family notified all police stations and hospitals in Amman and also placed an advertisement in local newspapers with a photo of the girl.

"We have contacted all her friends and our relatives in hopes of learning our daughter's whereabouts," said the uncle.

Following the appearance of the advertisement in Tuesday's newspapers, the family received several prank calls from individuals, some claiming to have seen the woman in a hotel or in the streets but not indicating the exact location.



Hiam Mohammad

"We had one caller who told us that our daughter will be back within 10 days."

"I think she is afraid to come back because she thinks that her father might hurt her," the uncle said.

"I just hope she turns herself in to a nearby police station, and I am going to guarantee that Hiam will not be harmed by anyone," he added.

Man commits suicide

A 22-year-old man who tried to commit suicide on Sunday, died Tuesday in Zarqa Military Hospital as a result of his wounds, hospital sources said.

According to a police report, Kamal A. A. suffered first degree burns, after he poured kerosene on his body and set himself on fire.

The father of the victim told police that he had an argument with his son. He said his son went to his room and locked himself in.

A few minutes later, the father added, he heard his son screaming and he smelled fire.

The report said the father tried to save his son and put out the fire, suffering burns on his hands.

Father and son were rushed to hospital. The report said that Kamal was burned over 95 per cent of his body.

The attending doctor

who received the victim said that Kamal's only words were "I burnt myself," before he went into a coma.

Woman in coma from burns

Also in Zarqa, a 19-year-old woman was listed in critical condition at the same hospital after she suffered first degree burns, according to police report.

The woman, identified only as S.M.A., was at home cooking when her clothes caught up on fire, her husband told police.

In his testimony to police, the husband said he was watering the garden when he heard his wife screaming for help.

Hospital sources told the Jordan Times that the woman suffered burns to 75 per cent of her body, adding "she has a slim chance of surviving because in similar cases, usually victims who suffer burns to more than 70 per cent of the body die as a result of blood poisoning."

Karak fire extinguished

Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials are investigating the cause of a fire in Karak which destroyed more than 250 dunums of trees and weeds during a two-day period.

According to a CDD official, fire units have extinguished the fire which consumed olive and other trees.

"The fire started in an area that was very difficult to reach," the official explained.

According to the report, CDD units were able to stop the fire from spreading to more lands.

"Our specialists are investigating the fire to determine how and why it started it," the official said.

Lloyds' presence expected soon at Aqaba

By P.V.Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Inspections of all incoming and outgoing ships continue at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of Aqaba as Jordan is edging towards an agreement to replace the sea-based interceptions with a land-based regime to enforce the international sanctions against Iraq, reliable sources said Tuesday.

The sources declined to be specific on the interceptions, but voiced optimism that Jordan and the Lloyds Register would sign an agreement in "one or two weeks" on having Lloyds surveyors set up a presence at Aqaba to observe incoming and outgoing cargo at the port.

"There is a misconception among many that there are no longer any inspections," said one source. "The Amer-

icans will not lift the siege of Aqaba until the moment Lloyds Register people are in place at Aqaba. In the meantime, the inspections are continuing."

The source declined comment when asked whether any ships were diverted after U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced in London three months ago that Washington was accepting the Jordanian proposal to have a Lloyds Register presence to observe cargo coming into and going out of Aqaba.

"The actual stationing of the surveyors would take two to three weeks from the actual signing of the agreement," said another source, adding that "some minor points remained to be sorted out" between the government and the London-based Lloyds Register.

According to the sources,

who preferred anonymity, these points could be clarified this week, paving the way for the signing of the accord. The date and venue for the signing have not been finalised, the source added.

The Ports Corporation will sign the agreement on behalf of the Jordanian government.

Under the arrangement, consignees will pay for the cost of the Lloyds presence at Aqaba on the basis of a tariff schedule prepared by the Ports Corporation, said the source, brushing aside suggestions that \$3 million have been set as cost for the first year.

"The actual amount that importers/exporters pay will be marginal when compared with the high freight charges that they used to pay because of the costly delays resulting from the sea-based inspections," said the source.

In the meantime, Lloyds Register has started recruiting and training local support staff for its surveyors to be stationed in Aqaba, other sources said without providing specific details.

The interceptions of all cargo vessels headed for and leaving the port of Aqaba by American warships have been a major point of friction between Jordan and the United States, the most ardent advocate of enforcing the sanctions imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

It took Jordan more than three years of repeated complaints coupled with international lobbying before the U.S. accepted in principle the concept of a neutral international agency like Lloyds Register to observe the Kingdom's adherence to the sanctions.

Officials say the interceptions cost Jordan more than \$1.2 billion in extra freight costs alone during this period, not to mention the diminished number of international shipping lines willing to send their vessels to Aqaba.

The officials affirm that the proposed Lloyds Register presence at Aqaba would in no way infringe upon Jordan's sovereign rights and that the surveyors would only work with Ports Corporation and customs officials to ensure that all incoming and outgoing cargo comply with their shipping manifests.

Goods destined for Iraq would be treated separately in line with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and would not be allowed to leave the quayside until all conditions laid down by the U.N. are satisfied.

FAO chief, premier review area's needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Jacques Diouf, director general of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Tuesday said the organisation was seeking justice in securing food resources for all nations through its continued endeavours to help increase food production, employing modern technology.

Speaking at a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Dr. Diouf said FAO was also seeking to help protect the environment in controlling and eradicating transboundary diseases and pests.

Dr. Majali said that the convening of the FAO conference in Jordan reflects the organisation's appreciation of the Kingdom's efforts in food production and FAO's determination to help the countries of the region meet their food shortages.

Earlier, Dr. Majali met with heads of delegations attending the FAO conference and listened to a briefing on the topics discussed at the conference which opened Sunday.

Conference deliberations proceed

In its third day the conference Tuesday reviewed a FAO report on preparations for the 1996 World Food Summit to be held in Canada.

The conference also discussed the elements of a holistic strategy for the sustainable development of dryland areas as detailed in Chapter 14 of Agenda 21 adopted by the Earth Summit, in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Agricultural and livestock products in the region rely, largely, on drylands which represent some 60 per cent of total land area of the region and provide life and support for approximately 38 per cent of its total population.

A farming system approach to dryland development was advocated as the most useful way of dealing with the intricacies of agricultural production systems at both the household and macro level, said a FAO statement.

FAO would organise proper scientific fora, at the re-



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday holds talks with heads of delegations attending a U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation conference (Petra photo)

gional and sub-regional levels, for the exchange of experiences relevant to dryland development.

The second major topic discussed Tuesday was the Impact of Structural Adjustment Programmes on Agricultural and Rural Development. The paper prepared by FAO secretariat reviewed structural adjustment packages adopted by some of the

member countries, highlighted their strengths and weaknesses and recommended corrective measures.

The FAO secretariat emphasised that the organisation would continue its efforts in assisting member countries in their endeavours to maximise the net benefits of structural adjustment, particularly, by providing policy advice in the design and im-

plementation of agricultural adjustment measures, and analytical support in formulating policy packages, and by enhancing the technical capabilities of national staff and policy analysts through conducting regional and country-specific technical assistance and training activities in agricultural structural adjustment policies and reform needs.

Democracy is essential to a Palestinian state — Abdul Shafi

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Palestinians, currently in a state of chaos and confusion, have to adopt democracy to successfully establish an independent state, according to Haider Abdul Shafi, a leading Palestinian figure and former head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In a lecture in Amman Tuesday, titled "Impressions Concerning the Latest Developments on the Palestinian Front," Dr. Abdul Shafi urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to "allow opposition parties to be part of decision-making in affairs concerning the future state of Palestine."

"We should learn from our previous mistakes and give up extremist positions," said Dr. Abdul Shafi adding that Mr. Arafat should let go of his "tribal mentality" of monopolising authority.

Saying that the Oslo agreement is now a reality, Palestinians should focus on communal efforts to found democratic, social and political establishments; an ambition which can only be realised if Mr. Arafat steers away from "political sectarianism" and moves towards including competent figures in positions of management and decision-making in the self-rule areas.

Mr. Abdul Shafi withdrew from the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks after the signing of the



Former Palestinian negotiator Dr. Haider Abdul Shafi (right), Tuesday delivers a lecture in Amman in the presence of Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies, Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh (Petra photo)

Declaration of Principles in Washington on Sept. 13, 1992.

In his lecture, Dr. Abdul Shafi said that, in principle, he opposes the Oslo agreement because it is not contingent with Palestinians' best interests, especially that it failed to address major issues related to Palestinians' rights. He pointed in particular to the omission in the agreement to the issue of dismantling of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The Cairo accord, signed by Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres, was a partial agreement on implementing the Declaration of Principles in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, however, stressed the need for Palestinians to challenge the present circumstances and offer all support to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to "put their foot down" in Gaza and the West Bank in order to be well equipped to deal with a much larger Palestinian state in the future.

The former delegation chief had refused an offer to be part of the PNA team

and criticised Mr. Arafat's "single-handed approach" to organising the PNA.

Asked about Jordanian-Palestinian relations, Dr. Abdul Shafi said that the Palestinian party concerned was wrong not to coordinate with Jordanians before embarking on signing any agreement. But, he said, this should not mean that "other Arabs must make the same mistake."

Saying that Palestinians have the right to define the nature of their relationship with other Arabs, he added that "realistically speaking," they will ultimately choose to cooperate with Jordan.

Dr. Abdul Shafi expressed confidence in the improvement of Jordanian-Palestinian relations saying that it is "immature to jump to conclusions" concerning the issue.

The lecture, hosted by the Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, was attended by university president Fawzi Ghazibeh, the two vice presidents, faculty members, students, and others.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PIANO RECITAL

★ Piano recital by Beatrice Ohanessian, a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Juilliard School of Music in New York at the Amman Baccalaureate School at 8:00 p.m.

CONCERT

★ Concert (including Bernstein's Candide Overture, Albeniz's Iberia, Stravinsky's Firebird and Rachmaninoff's Symphony No. 2) at the Philadelphia Hotel, Royal Ballroom at 8:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Sculpture and ceramic exhibition by Iraqi

artist Laila Al Turk at the Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uttheina (Tel. 826932).

★ Exhibition by Lebanese artist Gloria Tannouri at Philadelphia Hotel (Tel. 607100).

★ Exhibition of Palestinian national heritage at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition by artist Khaldoun Abdul Razzaq at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artist Raja' Abu Ghazaleh entitled "Heritage and Faces" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Painting exhibition by artist Fakhr Farzat at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

★ Exhibition on the development of "Le Louvre" at the French Cultural Centre.

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Dozens die in 2nd Haiti refugee calamity U.S. beefs up forces off Haiti

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States is sending a four-ship amphibious group to waters off Haiti to bolster forces enforcing U.N. sanctions against the de facto military rulers, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

"The U.S.S. Incheon amphibious ready group is preparing to depart Norfolk (Virginia) for waters off the coast of Haiti this week," a Pentagon spokeswoman said.

The spokeswoman, army Lieutenant Colonel Stephanie Hochne, said embarked on the Incheon, a helicopter assault ship, are about 2,000 Marines of the Camp Lejeune, North Carolina-based 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The unit is configured to "provide the capability to evacuate American citizens and designated foreign individuals as necessary," the spokeswoman said.

The three other ships in the group are the Portland, a dock landing ship, the Trenton, an amphibious transport dock and the Spartanburg, a tank landing ship, the Pentagon said.

Meanwhile, survivors and witnesses said as many as 150 Haitians may have died in the capsizing of a boat packed with 200 of them fleeing toward America.

After the boat overturned off Haiti's west coast Monday, survivors said dozens

drowned. It was the second refugee calamity at sea since a liberalised U.S. immigration policy took effect on June 16.

A refugee surge which critics say was triggered by that policy turned into a tidal wave Monday, with the U.S. Coast Guard intercepting 3,247 boat people in 70 boats, doubling the previous single-day high of May 1992.

"Not only have we broken our record, we broke our record big-time," Coast Guard spokeswoman Toni Long-Gay said.

Coast Guard boats have intercepted about 10,000 Haitians in the past 11 days and more than 54,000 since the military overthrew elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in September 1991.

Panama's government agreed Monday to accept up to 10,000 Haitians. But that would help for only several days if the exodus continues at its current pace.

The Haitians are fleeing rising poverty and political persecution. Up to 3,000 political killings have occurred since Mr. Aristide was deposed. A U.N. human rights mission says 30 political killings occurred in June.

President Bill Clinton's new policy permits boat people to appeal for political asylum. It followed intensified economic sanctions im-

posed on Haiti.

Mr. Clinton has not ruled out a military invasion to topple Haiti's military leaders and restore Mr. Aristide to power.

An accurate death count could not be determined in Monday's accident, which took place before dawn about a half-mile (a kilometre) off the Haitian coast.

The capsizing followed a June 23 accident in which at least 30 people died when a refugee boat listed off Haiti's south coast.

Survivors blamed crowding for Monday's accident, saying the boat swung left, then violently right as it overturned. Passengers, including numerous women and children, had been ferried to the vessel by rowboat.

"There were just too many people on the boat. They were fighting to get on board," said Daniel St. Silus, whose father paid 500 gourdes, the equivalent of about two weeks' pay, to get him aboard.

St. Silus, 19, said he reached underwater and saved his 17-year-old sister, Guerda. Like many Haitians, Guerda cannot swim.

Coast Guard officials said they had received no Haitian government request to help rescue survivors.

The Coast Guard's Long-Gay recalled that it took Haitian officials 36 hours to ask

for assistance when the ferry-boat Neptune capsized in February 1993 and an estimated 800 people drowned.

President Aristide renewed his opposition Monday to a U.S. invasion as a way to return him to power and backed up recent U.S. claims of widespread drug trafficking on the Caribbean nation.

Mr. Aristide's firm rejection of an invasion represented a change in tone from recent statements in which he has said he could not call for an invasion because by doing so would violate Haiti's constitution.

"Some people believe the solution for Haiti is invasion," Mr. Aristide told a news conference following his address to an international meeting in Managua on the world's new or restored democracies. "But we say no to the invasion, and we say yes to the accords we signed July 3 of last year."

Mr. Aristide referred to the U.S.-brokered Governor's Island accord in which Haitian military leaders agreed to step down and allow Mr. Aristide's return. But the military reneged on the pact.

Mr. Aristide also gave renewed backing to the U.S. claim that Haiti had become a major trans-shipment point for drugs headed to the United States.



French President Francois Mitterrand of Good Hope Award from Nelson Mandela on Monday. Mr. Mitterrand started a two-day visit in South Africa (AFP photo)

Li Peng stresses economic reform with stability in China

BONN (AFP) — Prime Minister Li Peng said Tuesday that his government would go on opening the Chinese economy to the free market, but stressed the importance it placed upon internal stability.

In a speech to German business leaders, he said the government laid great store by the development of democracy, the rule of law and "spiritual civilisation," but warned that "chaos" in China would be a "catastrophe for the whole world."

Observers took this to mean that the Communist Party would continue to resist any challenge to its rule, such as the pro-democracy movement which was crushed under Mr. Li's leadership in 1989.

The move from a planned economy to a social market economy is being fulfilled step by step, Mr. Li said, stating that the prices of about 90 per cent of goods were now market-determined.

He said the government would hold to its present policies unwaveringly and that all obstacles to China's modernisation would be overcome, but that "without stability there can be no talk of development."

The Chinese economy will grow by an annual average eight to nine per cent until 2000, by which time the annual level of China's foreign trade would reach \$400 billion if it continued to increase at the same rate, he predicted.

As regards trade with Germany, China's leading economic partner in Europe, the Chinese premier called for government-backed soft credits enabling the purchase of German goods otherwise regarded as too expensive.

On Monday, the first day of Mr. Li's visit to the country, German and Chinese firms signed contracts and letters of intent for business totalling \$3.5 billion.

The Chinese premier also had talks in Bonn Tuesday with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, during which the question of human rights in China and Chinese-occupied Tibet figured prominently, German officials said.

Mr. Kinkel asked Mr. Li for his help and support in securing the release of a number of political prisoners detained since the 1989 crackdown on the student and worker-led movement in Tiananmen Square.

The German section of

Amnesty International had asked German government ministers and opposition figures to press for the release of 14 named detainees during the premier's visit, which has been marked by human rights protests.

Mr. Kinkel and the Chinese premier also discussed a range of other matters such as the situation in the Korean peninsula, which Mr. Li said could only be resolved by dialogue. The premier welcomed the planned Korean summit.

They discussed China's role as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and Germany's bid for permanent membership of the Security Council, which has Chinese support.

Mr. Li met earlier Tuesday with Germany's new head of state Roman Herzog, whose first official engagement it was, after talks Monday with Chancellor Helmut Kohl in which the human rights question also figured.

In a press interview meanwhile, German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said the possibility of bringing about political change in China through economic relations should not be underestimated.

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Greek leftist group claims killing of Turkish envoy

ATHENS (Agencies) — Leftist Greek guerrillas, vowing to strike again, Tuesday claimed responsibility for the killing of a senior Turkish diplomat and said it was a protest at Turkish "crimes" against Cyprus and the Kurds.

The November 17 guerrilla group sent a four-page statement to the private Skai Television station late Monday. It was printed in Greek newspapers Tuesday.

A three-man November 17 hit-squad shot and killed Tur-

kish Counsellor Omer Haluk Sipahiglu Monday as he got into his car to drive to work.

They used a .45 calibre semi-automatic pistol which has been used in a string of killings, including that of U.S. Central Intelligence Agency station chief Richard Welch in 1975.

The group described Mr. Sipahiglu as "one of the most important members of the Turkish diplomatic mission."

Gonzalez, Amato tipped in race for top EU post

BRUSSELS (R) — Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and former Italian Premier Giuliano Amato have emerged as clear front-runners in the race to find a new president of the European Commission, diplomats say.

The 12-nation European Union has been plunged into crisis by its failure to agree on a successor to Jacques Delors for the key post. Britain blocked the appointment of Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene at an EU summit in Corfu last month.

Following the summit, a host of names emerged as potential successors to Mr. Delors, but the field appears to have narrowed in a flurry of high-level diplomatic contacts since the summit.

Diplomats said Mr. Gonzalez was favoured by many EU nations as a compromise candidate. But he had made clear that he is unwilling to leave Madrid at a time when his Socialist government is struggling with corruption scandals and other problems.

Mr. Amato seems the most likely candidate to win the job. Spain, which joined the bloc in 1986, has never held the post.

"There are many countries which feel that the post should be held by a sitting prime minister and there are still hopes that Mr. Gonzalez will change his mind," said one EU diplomat. "If not, Mr. Amato is the favoured option for many."

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, whose country currently holds the EU presidency, has been touring European capitals to help forge a consensus ahead of a special Brussels summit on July 15 which will decide the race.

Britain vetoed the appointment of Mr. Dehaene, arguing that he represented an interventionist and federalist view of Europe that the Conservative government in London opposes.

While Germany and other EU nations want to find a candidate acceptable to Britain, they were angered by the British veto and do not want to be seen making any real concessions to London. Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Amato are both Socialists but

diplomats said they were respected by Britain since both had pushed through tough economic reforms.

Mr. Kinkel, in Belgium and the Netherlands Monday, has flatly refused to discuss names of potential candidates, but he travels to Madrid Tuesday and diplomats said it was possible he could appeal to Mr. Gonzalez to change his mind.

Spanish government spokesman Miguel Gil said Monday there had been pressure on Mr. Gonzalez from other EU countries but that the prime minister was not a candidate.

Diplomats in Brussels said it was clear that Mr. Dehaene would have to withdraw, perhaps later this week, since Britain's Conservative government has said it cannot accept him.

Mr. Kinkel, whose country had backed Mr. Dehaene before the Corfu summit, said Monday it was up to the Belgian premier to decide but made clear that his chances were now minimal.

"Britain is sticking to its position so we must find a compromise situation," he told reporters after meeting Mr. Dehaene and Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes.

In Rome, senior diplomatic sources said Mr. Amato, 56, was emerging as a possible strong contender. "It is a name that is doing the rounds and not just in the press," one senior diplomat from an EU country said.

"I think there is a gathering consensus that he might be one of the preferred candidates," the diplomat said.

A senior Italian official said the conservative government of new prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, keen for a higher international profile, would welcome the post going to Mr. Amato.

He noted that an Italian had not held the presidency since Christian Democrat Franco Maria Malfatti between 1970 and 1972 in a European Community of just six members.

Mr. Amato, a Turin-born lawyer, gained international respect for his stewardship of Italy's economy during 10 stormy months as head of a coalition government which was finally brought down by the country's corruption scandals in April 1992.

Police chief predicts end to Irish conflict

BELFAST (Agencies) — Northern Ireland's police chief predicted Monday that a quarter century of guerrilla warfare in the province will be more or less over within three years.

Sir Hugh Annesley, chief constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, told a news conference the pro-peace lobby within the Irish Republican Army probably had the upper hand.

The IRA's foes in outlawed armed groups on the Protestant side of the sectarian divide would stop their attacks if the IRA did and if they did not fear Britain would abandon the province, he said.

"I don't think all violence will stop," Sir Hugh said. "I think terrorist violence will broadly stop and people in these groups (will) turn to intimidation, (beatings), further into drugs, and further into robbery."

He said this would be within three years.

Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA which is fighting to end British rule and reunite Ireland, has indicated it will reply within weeks to last December's Anglo-Irish peace plan that would offer it a place in talks on Ireland's future.

Many political commentators in the Irish media predict the IRA will soon announce a ceasefire.

"Whether it (a truce) comes to fruition or not awaits to be seen," Sir Hugh said, but

added: "On balance I am optimistic."

"I suspect if the provisionals (the IRA) were to call a halt and in so doing the loyalists (Protestant gunmen) did not see a sell-out then I believe the loyalists, for the most part, would stop violence as well," he added.

However, Protestant outlaws fighting any move to reunite Ireland say they will carry on their campaign regardless of what the IRA does.

Protestant paramilitary groups were responsible for most of the sectarian murders carried out during 1993 in the British province of Northern Ireland, according to an annual police report published here Monday.

Out of 84 murders, 48 were by the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) and Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), compared to 36 by the Irish Republican Army (IRA) or Irish National Liberation Army (INLA).

Six of the dead were police officers, eight British army soldiers and 70 civilians, said the report by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

Loyalists also accounted for 236 of the total 371 people arrested and Roman Catholic-based Republicans only 135.

Sir Hugh said there was "clear evidence" of worse to come from Protestant extremist groups.

New Tokyo government aims at open policy-making

TOKYO (R) — Japan's new government will set up a system to promote transparent policy-making and avoid the backroom manoeuvring that caused its predecessor to self-destruct, a coalition party spokesman said Tuesday.

Under the system, most coalition decisions will be taken by a panel of 20 lawmakers from the three ruling coalition parties — 10 Liberal Democrats (LDP), seven Socialists and three from the New Party Sakigake.

The panel is to meet twice weekly, with decisions to be agreed unanimously. Any lawmaker from a coalition party may sit in on its meetings as an observer.

The new system is an attempt to make coalition politics work in a country that until last summer had been ruled for 38 years by a single party, the LDP.

It aims to pre-empt the backroom decisions that destroyed the last coalition, and would be "a mechanism that is highly democratic and transparent," according to Socialist Party Secretary General Wataru Kubo, quoted by Kyodo News Agency.

The Socialists withdrew their support from an earlier coalition in April after moves by conservatives to exclude them from policy-making. Their exit led to a weak

minority government which resigned under threat of a no-confidence motion.

However, in-fighting remains on the cards in the new coalition, where the two main partners, the LDP and the Socialists, have little in common but decades of mutual enmity.

Socialist Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama tried on Tuesday to play down the image of his new government as consisting of incompatible groupings held together by sticking plasters.

"The LDP, Sakigake and Socialists are all parties with different flavours, but when it comes down to dealing with political reality, I don't think there's much difference in our policies," he said.

"I want this cabinet to be called a 'social-democratic-liberal-dove cabinet'."

However polls published Tuesday showed the public is not yet convinced.

Opposition to the government was running as high or higher as support for it. Many said they were opposed because it was formed by long-term bitter rivals, apparently for no better reason than as a way to get their hands on power again.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun, in a telephone poll of 3,000 adults, 57 per cent of whom responded, found support at 30 per cent and dis-

approval at 42 per cent.

This was lower than the 42-per cent initial support for the previous cabinet of Tsutomu Hata, which was written off by critics from its start. And it was far below the 70-per cent rating for Morihiro Hosokawa's cabinet when it took office last August as the first non-LDP government in nearly four decades.

Of the disapprovers, 69 per cent said they didn't like it because it was formed by the Socialists and LDP, and 44 per cent because it appeared unstable.

A Sankei Shimbun survey gave the cabinet a better approval rating of 48 per cent, but still found 47 per cent disapproved.

Mr. Murayama is scheduled to make an inaugural policy speech during a five-day extraordinary session of parliament opening on July 18.

The session will also give Mr. Murayama a chance to brief parliament on the Group of Seven (G7) summit meeting this weekend in Naples.

Mr. Murayama goes to the Group of Seven summit in Naples this weekend having been prime minister barely a week and with Japan's international credibility weakened by a series of political crises.

Mr. Murayama is Japan's

fourth prime minister since Kiichi Miyazawa hosted the last G7 summit a year ago.

Mr. Murayama leaves for Italy Wednesday to join government leaders and heads of state from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and the United States, most of whom had not heard of him before last week.

Many of the ministers from the centre and right-wing parties in his coalition have some experience of international events.

Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, head of the Liberal Democratic Party, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura, head of the New Sakigake Party, and Minister for International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto, all come from parties with experience of government.

Mr. Murayama sent a letter last week to other summit participants declaring his determination to "assure the continuity of Japanese policy in diplomacy and security."

He said he was also seeking to establish a stable government.

Tokyo press reports have said that the Foreign Ministry has tried to set up a first meeting with other G7 leaders before the summit gets underway.

A meeting with President Bill Clinton would be the most important of these,

especially after the preceding government of Tsutomu Hata had attempted to unblock Japan-U.S. talks on ways of reducing Japan's huge trade surplus.

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Dog shoots man

WARSAW (AFP) — A young man was shot in the leg by his dog, the Polish News Agency (PAP) reported Monday. The man, from Bytow near Slupsk in northern Poland, had taken his dog with him to do some target practice in his garden. He had just leant his rifle up on his car and walked off to fix the target when the dog knocked the rifle over, sending a volley of lead into his master. The young man was taken to hospital, where he had to have an operation. The agency did not say what happened to the dog.

Neeson, Richardson tie the knot

NEW YORK (AFP) — Irish actor Liam Neeson and actress Natasha Richardson have wed at their country home outside New York City. About 70 guests attended the private ceremony Sunday including the bride's mother, Vanessa Redgrave, and Redgrave's former companion, actor Franco Nero, the Daily News reported. Also on hand were blockbuster director Steven Spielberg and his wife, actresses Kate Capshaw, Milla Farrow and Emma Thompson, and director Ron Shelton, the Daily News said. Neeson, 42, played the lead in Spielberg's hit *Schindler's List*. He and Richardson, the 31-year-old daughter of the late Oscar-winning British director Tony Richardson, met while performing on Broadway.

China to limit film imports, co-productions

BEIJING (R) — China will impose new rules on its film industry, limiting the number of foreign imports and regulating co-productions, some of which have embarrassed the Communist Party, the official China Daily said Tuesday. Imported films will be limited to 30 per cent of the total film market, the newspaper said. No more than 30 films annually may be made in co-productions with foreign companies. "The rules aim to strengthen administration of imported films and co-production of films with foreign producers," Li Wenbin, an official at the Ministry of Radio, Film and Television, told the newspaper. "There will be more careful screening of imported films, one of the major channels through which the Chinese get access to foreign culture," the newspaper said. Mr. Li said the restrictions were not aimed at shutting out foreigners. "Co-production of films with foreigners can survive (the new rules) if the principle of mutual benefits is observed," he said.

China has been embarrassed in recent years when films made by its directors with foreign funds have won overseas prizes and prizes, even when domestic censors have not allowed them in the local market or have demanded extensive changes. The latest Chinese film to run into trouble at home despite praise abroad was Zhang Yimou's *To Live*. The director stayed away from this year's Cannes festival, where the film was in contention, because it had not been passed by the censors. Last year's co-winner of Cannes' Golden Palm Award, Chen Kaige's *Farewell to My Concubine*, was only shown in China after the censor's cuts. The new rules say that the ministry must have the final say before co-produced films can be released.

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A soldier from Rwanda's Tutsi minority stands in front of the Holy Family Church in Kigali after the city was seized

by the rebels. Most government forces have fled Kigali (AFP photo)

Bosnia fighting puts peace talks in doubt

SARAJEVO (R) — Renewed fighting between Serb and Muslim forces in Bosnia Tuesday cast doubt on the latest attempt by the major powers to persuade the warring parties to accept a new peace plan.

Foreign ministers from the United States, Russia, France, Germany and Britain were meeting in Geneva to endorse a joint peace proposal which will be presented to the leaders of the Bosnian factions.

Neither side has given any indication that it is ready to accept the plan, which divides the country roughly in half between the Serbs and the Muslim-Croat federation. France and Britain have made clear they do not expect any breakthrough.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Tuesday that if the Muslim-led Bosnian government accepted the plan and the Serbs rejected it, the arms embargo on former Yugoslavia could be lifted for the Bosnian government.

He said: "I think there is a recognition that lifting the arms embargo may be an unavoidable option if the Serbs do not accept and the Bosnians (Muslims) do."

In order to persuade the Serbs to sign up for the plan, the five powers have been discussing whether to open Belgrade Airport to send in large amounts of aid. Full implementation of the plan

would be followed by gradual easing of U.N. sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro.

In Sarajevo, the United Nations reported renewed artillery and mortar fire along the main Serb-Muslim battlefronts in north-central Bosnia and said a Serb counter-attack to secure a key supply route seemed to have succeeded.

"The BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) counter-attack seems to have stabilised the front around Route Duck," said U.N. spokesman Eric Chaperon, referring to the road between Zenica and Tuzla which the Muslims have been trying to take for several weeks.

U.N. peacekeepers, who have been shot at on dozens of occasions by both Serb and Muslim forces in recent days, came under fire again from both sides in the eastern town of Gorazde Monday, a United Nations spokesman said.

In Geneva, Mr. Christopher and the foreign ministers of Russia, Britain, France and Germany are expected to approve a map dividing Bosnia drawn up by officials from the five-nation "contact group."

The officials will then present it to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic and Croat chief Kresimir Zubak.

The ministers will also outline a series of threats and promises to press the warring

sides to accept the peace plan. The combatants have two weeks to make up their minds.

The danger of a "take it or leave it" approach is that the five powers do not seem unanimous in what course of action to follow if the Bosnian factions reject the plan.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev has already given a warning that disagreement between Moscow and the four Western powers on the nature of the proposed threats and promises could lead to a third world war.

Interfax News Agency quoted him Monday as saying in Moscow that "some of Russia's partners insist on air strikes against Bosnian Serbs" — something that Russia has opposed.

"If such a split happens, a real danger of international confrontation will arise, up to a world war," Mr. Kozyrev said.

The peace plan is also expected to be endorsed by the leaders of the group of seven major industrial powers and Russia at their summit meeting in Naples this weekend.

When Russian President Boris Yeltsin joins the G7 leaders on Saturday night for the political second half of their annual summit, attempts to prevent a threatened wider war in the Balkans will top the agenda.

"It may sound melodramatic to call this the last chance for peace in Bosnia, but if it

fails you will see France and Britain starting to pull their peacekeepers out and the whole conflict potentially getting out of hand," a senior Western envoy said.

France and Britain, which provide the largest contingents to the United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia, have indicated they are ready to reduce their forces or pull them out altogether if the peace plan is rejected.

The peace plan centres on a map which awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat federation and the rest to the Serbs.

Meanwhile, one person was killed and three were injured in the Serb-controlled Croatian territory of Krajina when a U.N. vehicle collided with a parked car, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

Paul Risley said an enquiry had been opened into how the vehicle, driven by a U.N. military observer, had collided Monday with a parked car and killed one person, injuring three others, one seriously.

The accident happened on the road from Vojnic to Topusko, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) south of Zagreb in one of the four Serb-controlled regions of Croatia under U.N. protection.

Risley said that Yasushi Akashi, the U.N. envoy for ex-Yugoslavia, had expressed his deepest regrets at the tragic accident.

"We can face together a new trans-national enemy, one that is very powerful, very mobile and one that is very well supported around the world," Mr. Freeh declared at a joint news conference with Mr. Yerin.

The pact sealed a four-day visit to Moscow by Mr. Freeh that both sides said launched a new era of cooperation between the police forces of the two former cold war adversaries.

Mr. Freeh warned his hosts that American racketeers might soon move into Russia to exploit a weak economy in the chaotic shift to a market

Rwandan rebels to form government within days

KIGALI (R) — The commander of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) said Tuesday it would form a broad-based government within days and would then declare a unilateral ceasefire.

"The RPF will declare a broad-based government of national unity within days," RPF Commander Major-General Paul Kagame told reporters at Kanombe barracks in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

"The RPF should now be considered as the government and the former government should be considered as rebels," said Gen. Kagame, adding he expected the international community to recognise the new government.

He said as soon as it was formed the RPF would declare a unilateral ceasefire.

Gen. Kagame hit out at France for what he said were statements that came across as threats after French forces were ordered Monday to stop an RPF advance westwards by force if necessary.

"The manner in which this is being handled is uncalled for," he said. "The French must recognise our sovereign rights in our own country. We don't mind having zones where civilians will be protected but the way the matter is being handled raises questions."

A moderate Hutu leader said Tuesday he strongly opposed France's plan for a "safe zone" in western Rwanda and feared it could plunge the region into war.

"This buffer zone is being created to protect the murderers. France will be assisting and protecting those (Hutu militias) who have been exterminating Tutsis," Faustin Twagiramunga told Reuters during a four-day visit to Brussels.

"They (the French) opposed the Nazis, but now they are protecting people

who are exterminating the Tutsis," he added.

Mr. Twagiramunga would have been prime minister of a broad-based transitional government had a peace agreement signed last year between the Hutu-dominated Rwandan government and the Tutsi-led Rwanda Patriotic Front been implemented.

France Monday decreed a vast southwestern area off limits to the rival forces in Rwanda's civil war, including the RPF which is moving westwards after taking the capital Kigali and the second city, Butare.

The rebels vowed to continue their advance saying it — like the French action — was aimed at saving civilians.

"The French have declared war on the RPF," said Mr. Twagiramunga of the French buffer zone plan.

"We will have a regional war because of the French intervention," he added. He described the U.N.-agreed French intervention in Rwanda as a bid by France to

control the central African region. "This is a form of neo-colonialism," he said.

Mr. Twagiramunga said the international community, and especially the U.N., had failed miserably in Rwanda.

"The U.N. had wanted France to save its skin, which I find it absolutely incredible. I am Rwandan, and a Hutu, and I find it inconceivable the French think they can be in Rwanda," he said.

Rwandan rebels called Tuesday for an end to French intervention in their country and said they were prepared to fight French forces at the town of Gikongoro.

The rebels are sweeping westwards and French troops have been ordered to stop them entering the town of Gikongoro or advancing beyond it into a "safe area" for refugees.

"The interests of the French are not the Rwandan people... If by going to Gikongoro we can save people in the town we will go in," RPF Secretary-General

Theogene Rudasingwa told a London news conference.

Mr. Rudasingwa said the civil war in Rwanda was not over and that the RPF was not afraid of the French army's superior fire power.

"I am sure if they stick to their confrontational attitude... they had better prepare for... a definite defeat," he said.

The French troops in Gikongoro are just 20 kilometres from the battle front. France declared the safe area for civilians in the south of the country, despite not having backing from the U.N. Security Council — something it initially said was essential.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe says that although RPF leaders have in public denounced the safe area as evidence of France's backing for the previous Hutu government, the movement has given Paris the green light in private for the zone to be set up.



Two Tutsi refugees cry in joy and hug each other in a refugee camp of the Holy Michael Patriotic Front from government soldiers Church in Kigali after they learnt that the city (AFP photo)

Russian, U.S. crime-busters declare war on mafia

MOSCOW (R) — Russian and U.S. crime-busting chiefs signed an agreement Tuesday to work together to combat a "new trans-national enemy" — mafia-style organised crime.

Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Louis Freeh signed a protocol for joint action to break big-time gangs from each country operating on the other's territory.

"We can face together a new trans-national enemy, one that is very powerful, very mobile and one that is very well supported around the world," Mr. Freeh declared at a joint news conference with Mr. Yerin.

The pact sealed a four-day visit to Moscow by Mr. Freeh that both sides said launched a new era of cooperation between the police forces of the two former cold war adversaries.

Mr. Freeh warned his hosts that American racketeers might soon move into Russia to exploit a weak economy in the chaotic shift to a market

system.

He cited the example of one Russian gang which had conspired with an international drug-trafficking cartel with the help of U.S. criminals to smuggle one tonne of cocaine into St. Petersburg, Russia's second city.

Against a background of bomb attacks, kidnappings and extortion rackets in Moscow, the visit reflects a move by the FBI to help the poorly-equipped Russian police stem a wave of organised crime which Mr. Freeh says poses a threat to law-enforcement agencies world-wide.

Mr. Freeh used his visit, part of a Central and East European tour, to repeat his fears that in the chaos of present-day post-Communist Russia weapons-grade nuclear materials could find their way into criminal hands and be then sold to "terrorists."

Mr. Yerin, in line with previous Russian statements, played down this threat saying there had not been a single case of such theft from a nuclear plant.

But he acknowledged about 50 cases were being in-

vestigated where radioactive material used in metallurgy and health care had been the subject of "criminal deals."

The protocol, detailed by Interfax News Agency, laid the ground for an exchange of police information, cooperation in criminal investigations and the detention of suspected criminals in each other's countries.

It also formally supported a move by the FBI to open an office in Moscow though Mr. Freeh indicated the U.S. organisation would continue for a while with the single representative it has had here for some months.

Mr. Freeh complimented his Russian hosts on their determination to crack down on crime and voiced support again for a crime-fighting decree ordered by President Boris Yeltsin.

Sweeping new powers in the decree give police the right to detain suspects for up to a month, search offices and homes without a court order and examine the financial affairs of anyone suspected of organised crime.

"President Yeltsin has acknowledged a very strong and dangerous, organised crime presence which, as he says, could take the country by the throat and destroy democratic institutions," Mr. Freeh said. "I think they are well on their way here."

Both men, answering a reporter's question, said they had discussed the extent of corruption within law-enforcement agencies in Russia — a factor which almost every Russian advance for decrying Mr. Yeltsin's crack-down.

Mr. Freeh said an anti-corruption bill under discussion by the Russian parliament was far tougher than any such in the United States calling for restriction on outside employment by police officers and disclosure of sources of financial revenue.

Mr. Yerin seemed on the defensive in answering the question saying only "much remains to be done so far professionalism, honesty, orderliness of every worker of the Interior Ministry organs will meet the standards of the society we are building together."

Cambodia's Hun Sen denies party involved in coup

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen disowned the two members of his political party who mounted an unsuccessful coup attempt at the weekend branding them as traitors who were acting alone.

Speaking to reporters outside parliament Tuesday, Mr. Hun Sen denied his political party was involved in the failed coup.

Prince Norodom Chakrapong, a former deputy prime minister and a son of head of state King Norodom Sihanouk, was deported to Malaysia Sunday after government forces arrested coup leader General Sin Song, a former interior minister for plotting the uprising.

Both men were members of Mr. Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the number two party in the ruling coalition government.

"It's not a CPP plot. It was a plot by CPP traitors. So please don't suspect any connection with the CPP in this coup," Mr. Hun Sen said.

The government said 300 soldiers backed by 12 armoured vehicles supporting Gen. Sin Song had been stopped and disarmed at Dey Eth, 30 kilometres southeast of Phnom Penh.

According to one senior government official, Prince Chakrapong had become increasingly disillusioned with the level of support he had been receiving from the CPP.

Government spokesman Sieng Lapresse said 28 weapons and 21 walkie-talkies had been seized in houses belonging to Gen. Sin Song and Prince Chakrapong. He said the plotters aimed to create "public disorder" and "destroy national institutions."

Fourteen Thai nationals found sheltering in a hotel owned by Prince Chakrapong were being questioned about the possibility of their involvement in the coup attempt. First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said earlier.

"It's very natural and logical that we detain those Thais but we will not detain them if there isn't any charge," he said.

The former CPP ministers led an abortive secessionist movement in 1993 following the holding of U.N.-organised elections won by Prince Ranariddh's royalists.

"I would like to say the incident Saturday was not a secessionist movement but an unsuccessful coup," Mr. Hun Sen said.

Diplomats agreed that it

appeared to have been a bungled attempt by Prince Chakrapong and Gen. Sin Song to lever concessions out of the government.

Meanwhile, a bill to outlaw the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction caused heated debate in the Cambodian parliament Tuesday with some dissenting lawmakers saying the legislation was unconstitutional.

"Even if 100 per cent of the 120 MPs vote for the law. That law is unconstitutional. That law is not valid," Finance Minister Sam Rainsy, an outspoken critic of the bill, said.

"Is this in line with national reconciliation?" he asked. Mr. Sam Rainsy said if the bill was approved it could result in repressive measures by the government.

"We want guarantees in the law to make sure it is proper, to make sure there won't be human-rights violations," he said.

The draft law, introduced by the CPP would provide East [CPP] would provide prison terms of up to 30 years for acts of secession and incitement of the population to arms.

Prince Ranariddh launched a spirited defence of the legislation saying it had been prompted by the Khmer Rouge after they rejected

earlier offers of national reconciliation.

"If Mr. Pol Pot had accepted the ceasefire proposal by His Majesty the King, supported unconditionally by the National Assembly and royal government, we would not come today to debate them becoming outlawed," he said.

The Khmer Rouge killed a million Cambodians during their 1970's "killing fields" rule of the country through starvation, disease, execution and hard labour.

They signed a peace pact with other Cambodian factions in 1991 but refused to participate in U.N. elections and have in recent months been conducting a low-level guerrilla war against the government.

A peace conference last month between the government and the Maoist insurgents failed to agree on terms for a ceasefire.

Earlier, head of state King Norodom Sihanouk, had proposed the Khmer Rouge declare an immediate ceasefire, open their zones of control and demobilise their 8,000-strong fighting force in exchange for negotiations with the government to discuss demands for power-sharing.

Poland wants to join NATO by decade's end

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Poland is planning to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) before the end of the decade, Deputy Polish Defence Minister Jerzy Milewski said here Tuesday.

He was speaking at a ceremony to endorse the details of Poland's military cooperation with NATO under the alliance's partnership for

peace programme launched in January.

Twenty-one countries including Russia have so far joined the partnership which comprises military cooperation between NATO and its former Warsaw Pact adversaries and the countries of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

But Poland is the first country of the partnership to

have details of its military cooperation with NATO formally accepted by the Western alliance and ready for implementation.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Robert Mroziewicz said during the ceremony: "This is but the beginning of a process which should lead towards Poland's membership of NATO."

Later, Mr. Milewski spelled out Poland's aim more clearly. He told journalists: "We are hoping to reach this goal in this decade."

NATO has accepted that the partnership programme is a halfway house to full membership of the trans-Atlantic alliance for some ex-Warsaw Pact countries, but has so far avoided setting any precise calendar for membership.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Strong quake kills 2 in Mexico

OAXACA, Mexico (AP) — Two people died Monday when a strong earthquake rocked the southern part of the country, but there were no immediate reports of other damage or injuries. The two masons were buried alive when the quake brought down a stone wall on top of them in the city's historic centre, said Civil Defence officials. Civil Defence and Red Cross personnel had worked frantically for more than three hours to save Alfredo Gonzalez Juarez, 40, and Pedro Vazquez Lopez, 25. But by the time rescue volunteers reached them, they were dead. Vazquez Lopez' brother, Arnulfo, who was also working on the site, said it was the first day of work at the project, a new house. The two masons were in a six-foot (2-metre) trench removing roots when the quake struck and the wall fell on them. The U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Centre in Golden, Colo., estimated the preliminary magnitude of the quake at 6.0. The agency said it struck at 4:36 p.m. (2136 GMT).

Mandela wants to meet Savimbi soon

CAPE TOWN (AP) — President Nelson Mandela said Monday he hoped to meet with Angolan leader Jonas Savimbi within the next week to 10 days in South Africa. Speaking to reporters in the Khayelitsha black township, Mr. Mandela said he invited Mr. Savimbi to come to South Africa for talks sometime after a meeting this week with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and other African leaders on Angola's 19-year-old civil war. "The actual date is being arranged. It is either this weekend or early next week," Mr. Mandela said of meeting Mr. Savimbi, head of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebel group in Angola. Mr. Mandela agreed to intervene in Angola's deadlocked peace process after an approach from Alioune Blondine Beye, the U.N. special representative to the southwest African nation. Mr. Beye has headed seven months of peace talks in Lusaka, Zambia, now stalled over how Mr. Dos Santos' government and Mr. Savimbi's rebels would share power in a post-war government.

"I am not acting separately," Mr. Mandela said of his

planned meetings. "I am complementing his (Beye's) efforts and he has done wonderful work."

Clinton is 'distracted by troubles'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is acknowledging for the first time that President Bill Clinton's legal troubles are a major distraction. "The burden of preparing for an extensive investigation in the Whitewater case and an extensive lawsuit in the Paula Jones case is very, very substantial," White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler said in a cable TV interview. Asked whether the Whitewater investigation was distracting to the president or his staff, Mr. Cutler said: "It certainly is." His comments conform with the president's legal strategy to delay the sexual harassment suit filed by Ms. Jones, a former Arkansas state employee. But his blunt assessment was the harshest yet from a White House that has generally tried to dismiss the effect of Mr. Clinton's legal woes on the chores of governing. In his legal attack on the harassment lawsuit, Mr. Clinton's personal attorney, Robert Bennett, has argued that civil lawsuits are too distracting for a sitting president. He wants Ms. Jones' case to wait until after Mr. Clinton leaves office. "The public is getting generally bored with the Whitewater matter," Mr. Cutler said. Prosecutor Robert Fiske is investigating the Clintons' Arkansas land deals and their ties to a defunct savings and loan known as Whitewater.

More than 10 die in China train blast

HONG KONG (AFP) — More than 10 people were killed when an explosion ripped through a passenger train in China's east-coast Fujian province Sunday, Hong Kong press reports said Tuesday. The local train, which originated in the port city of Fuzhou, was entering Shunchang station, 200 kilometres inland, when the blast occurred at nightfall, the reports said. While investigations were underway, railway officials were quoted as saying that explosives being illegally carried by migrant workers might have been the cause of the disaster. One local official told Asia Television that more than 10 people were killed, with about 50 others injured, many seriously. The Chinese-language Sing Tao Daily News put the death toll at 18, with 49 injured.

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Different issues, same peace

NOTWITHSTANDING the sizeable Israeli opposition to the peace talks with the PLO, the fact that 59 per cent of Israelis still support these negotiations proves beyond a shadow of doubt that the bilateral Israeli-Palestinian peace talks are on solid grounds, at least for the time being. A recent poll taken in Israel indicates that the overwhelming majority of Israelis still have faith in the self-rule formula for the Palestinians as a basis for establishing full peace in the region. On the other side of the coin, one can also find strong Palestinian opposition to what PLO Leader Yasser Arafat has been able to attain thus far to satisfy his peoples' aspiration for a homeland in Palestine. The rejectionists on both sides have a common objective albeit with different motivations to scuttle the peace process.

The Palestinians, including those who opted to put faith in the self-rule scheme, could not be expected to maintain their positive stance if nothing more is built on the modest advances registered already between their leadership and the Israeli side. This would explain Arafat's insistence that immediate talks be started to widen the scope of the Palestinian self-rule territory and jurisdiction. Neither the Gaza Strip nor the small Jericho area can be expected to maintain the Palestinians' solidarity with their leadership for too long if more is not added to their gains in a relatively short period of time. The Nabulus, Hebron and Ramallah areas offer new possibilities for extending the territorial limit of autonomous areas. In view of the geographic proximity to Israeli borders of 1967, these cities and their environs would pose different sets of issues that would require painstaking negotiations as early as possible. Even more pressing would be the linkage between all the communities that have attained self-rule status. There is no way that the Palestinian self-government plan could succeed as long as they remain isolated districts devoid of commercial and political links through a network of corridors and highways. The political and economic viability of the self-rule areas calls for closer connections between them as a matter of high urgency. Otherwise, the euphoria triggered by the visit of the PLO chairman to Gaza and Jericho would soon dissipate. How fast Yitzhak Rabin is prepared to go in order to cement the existing successes on the ground remains to be seen. The Likud Party and its supporters would wish nothing more than to see achievements unravelling as soon as, if not before, they even begin to take us towards peace.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

PALESTINE PRESIDENT Yasser Arafat ought to rely on the wealthy Palestinians abroad to feed the hungry among his people and to finance infrastructure and economic schemes for the Palestinians, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. Mr. Arafat ought to take a lesson from Russia and refuse to succumb to U.S. and Israeli pressure to change his stand concerning the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland, said the writer. In the case of Russia, the donor nations paid very little and are not fulfilling their promises at a time when all kinds of pressures are put on Mr. Arafat to succumb to U.S. wishes in return for meagre assistance. There are thousands of Palestinians who own willingness and who would be glad to help finance Mr. Arafat's projects and can buy Palestine bonds or offer direct help or embark on direct investments to achieve that goal, suggested the writer. He said that the Palestinians are most likely willing to respond to Mr. Arafat's call and help him escape the carrot and the stick policy being exercised against him and the Palestinian people by the U.S.-Israeli alliance. Most importantly, Mr. Arafat ought to learn a lesson from the Palestinians under Israeli rule who, said the writer, have never ceded their right or given up the struggle despite the meagre means at their disposal.

NAZIH QOUSUS, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab daily accused the Labour Ministry and its departments around the country of shirking their responsibility and duty and allowing chaos to reign in the Jordanian labour market. The Labour Ministry has failed to date to determine the volume of workforce needed for agricultural, construction or services sectors in Jordan and has been allowing guest workers to take up any job at ease, thus depriving thousands of Jordanians of a decent means of living, said the writer.

By Dr. James Zogby

LAST WEEK I was invited to Los Angeles by Vidal Sassoon to address a major symposium on anti-Semitism sponsored by the Hebrew University, the international symposium brought together experts from four countries to explore the phenomenon of anti-Semitism in the world today. I accepted the challenge, since I viewed it as a real opportunity to open a dialogue and to present an Arab view on at least one aspect of this issue.

My paper, which I entitled "Anti-Semitism and the other anti-Semitism" was an effort to create an understanding of Arabs as Semites and as victims of the same poison that had affected the Jewish people. I also sought to create an understanding of how both peoples have not only been

whelming response of those in attendance (about 500) was enthusiastically positive and supportive of my call to understand Arab suffering and pain, and my call to end negative stereotyping of Arabs and Muslims.

At the end of my remarks, Vidal Sassoon urged me to publish them as an article in the Arab press, and so I present it below in an effort to further this dialogue.

Historically, the animus of anti-Semitism directed against both Arabs and Jews, has been one phenomenon.

It has been a largely Western Christian struggle against two Semitic civilisations — one which it found living within its midst and which it saw as an internal threat; the other which it confronted as an external challenge, but which it

man and Russian depictions of Jews paralleled the two most common images of the Arabs projected in U.S. cartoons. The fat grotesque Jewish banker or merchant found its contemporary counterpart in the obese oil sheikh, and the images of the Arab and Jewish terrorists differed only in their attire.

Both groups were uniformly treated as alien and hostile, they were accused of not sharing Western values and were both viewed as prone to conspiracy. They were both seen as usurpers of western wealth, were accused of lusting after women. And both Arabs and Jews were defined as threats to western civilisation.

Jews were portrayed as internally associated with capitalist greed and externally with anarchist violence and communism. Arab avarice was held responsible for runaway inflation in the West and Arabs were seen as the main agents responsible for international terrorism.

Through inevitable, it was nonetheless profoundly tragic that as both groups became locked in a struggle over Palestine, in their political discourse each would fall prey to utilising and even propagating some of those same forms of negative stereotyping against the other.

As an Arab-American who has spent most of my adult life organising with my community to secure our right to full participation in our American democracy, I can testify to the devastating effects this intergroup conflict has had on Arab-Americans.

Respected major Jewish political and civil rights organisations routinely denounced Arab-American efforts as anti-Semitic and even went so far as to state that there really was no such group as Arab-Americans. What we really were, these Jewish groups asserted, were Lebanese, Syrians, Palestinians, etc. who had, as a result of Arab petrodollar funding come to term ourselves as an "Arab lobby." We were not an ethnic people, just a cause — and merely an anti-Israel cause at that.

As a result of the campaign of hatred waged against Arab-Americans, violence and threats of violence, political exclusion and defamation, all described the political reality of my community for much of the past twenty years. However, as a result of

our hard work, the increased openness and fairness, we have found in many political leaders the responsiveness of the Jewish community, and helped to a great extent by the new atmosphere created by the Sept. 13 Israeli-Palestinian accord, this painful chapter in the history of the Arab and Jewish communities may be coming to an end.

But for that to occur, the spirit of the accord must be translated into a new relationship between our two communities. What happened on Sept. 13 was more than a mere political act — the act of mutual recognition, if fully implemented, can mark the end of the hostilities between the two Semitic peoples. By mutually recognising each other's peoplehood — both Israeli and Palestinian — they can end their denial of each other's rights to a corporate identity.

I.F. Stone once told me that in his view one of the most virulent forms of anti-Semitism was the fear of Jews claiming their rights and operating as an organised group. "It was, after all, the anti-Semite," he noted, "who would say 'some of my best friends are Jews,' but then go on to denounce organised Jews."

Was it not Golda Meir who denied that a group called Palestinians ever existed... and was it not Israeli policy for 25 years to refuse to recognise the national rights of that people?

In 1983 Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, speaking at the National Press Club in Washington said that the Israeli refusal to deal with the PLO had nothing to do with terrorism but rather "because by talking to them one recognises the national rights of Palestinians and that is something we refuse to do."

And so too, for Palestinians and Arabs there was a systematic denial of the rights of Jews to define themselves as a separate ethnic national community. The Arab rejection of Zionism was not only based on their pain over what that movement had done to them, but because they could not accept the definition of the Jews as a separate national entity.

With mutual recognition, that mutual denial has ended.

What is important now is that both communities move from formal mutual recognition to a deeper

mutual understanding. There is a tendency exhibited by oppressed groups of people who have experienced pain to, in a sense, draw a circle around themselves and their pain. They do not see beyond their pain. Some groups make a virtual religion of their pain and their history.

For such groups, other peoples become objectified and depersonalised. As a result, some victim peoples have become victimisers. They have no feeling for the pain they inflict. Indeed, they often justify the pain they inflict on others, because for them, the only real pain is the pain they feel themselves.

Arabs and Jews must move beyond that common drum — that has defined their mutually inflicted pain — to a new relationship of mutual understanding. Both groups must

quest in the Arab World... what it did to Algerians, Libyans, and what dismemberment and conquest meant to the Arabs of the Levant — there were pogroms against Arabs, too.

But more than that, Jews too must grapple with the pain of Palestinians and Lebanese — not only that of those who died in Al Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron, but also those who suffer the daily humiliations that occur within occupation, the collective punishment, the curfews, the lost land and the violence and the arbitrary arrests.

And Jews must understand the fear, the pain and the anger of those 500,000 Lebanese who were forced to flee their homes as the Israeli government mercilessly bombed their villages last year. While

"Those who have made an identity of being victims will not easily surrender their sole ownership of that role. And those who have written their books on 'The Arab Mind' and 'How Arabs Think' or based a generalised criticism of Islam and fundamentalism on out of context quotations from the Koran or from this or that Muslim thinker, will not readily agree that what they are doing is no different from those who have written racist treatises about 'the Jews' — as if an entire people can be understood or criticised by a single quotation or action."

never again exploit the crude anti-Semitic caricatures that have been used to dehumanise each other.

But more than that, we must come to know each other as full people who share the same feelings, fears and aspirations. Our real histories are not the simple black/white, stark figure history portrayed in Leon Uris' "The Exodus." Humanity and suffering exists on both sides.

Arabs, I believe, must come to understand the legacy of anti-Semitism, the Jewish fear of the pogrom and the tragedy of the holocaust. But more than that, Arabs must also know the fear of the survivors of Afula and the pain of the families and friends of those who did not survive the massacre.

As well, Jews must know the agony of imperial colonialism that he was sending a message to the government of Lebanon with that bombing — what we must ask was the message those homeless people took with them. And what was the message received by the families of the 150 Lebanese who were killed in the raid?

Prime Minister Rabin said that he was sending a message to the government of Lebanon with that bombing — what we must ask was the message those homeless people took with them. And what was the message received by the families of the 150 Lebanese who were killed in the raid?

We must know each other's pain.

To move forward, we must get inside each other's skin and know each other as well as we know ourselves.

In the end, I believe, this is the only way to end the suffering and to bring Arabs and Jews together in a common struggle — not against each other — but together to end the virulent, anti-Semitic poison that has brought us both so much pain.

Turkey seizes initiative in war on rebel Kurds

By Aliza Marcus
Reuters

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey — Turkey, applying maximum force, has seized the initiative from separatist Kurdish guerrillas in the southeast for the first time in a decade.

But the cost has been high — and not just to Turkey's hard-pressed treasury.

The toll in the 10-year-old conflict has climbed past 12,000 dead. Hundreds of villages have been burned and emptied. Many thousands of people have been uprooted. Several hundred have died in politically motivated street killings.

In the past year the security forces have reassessed their grip on the cities and towns of a region that is home to perhaps half of Turkey's estimated 10 million Kurds.

About 250,000 troops, police, anti-guerrilla squads and state-paid Kurdish militiamen, backed by planes and helicopters, have taken the war to the outgunned and vastly outnumbered Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighters in the mountains.

Interior Minister Nihat Metase declared at the weekend that the PKK had been "largely neutralised". He said the security forces had killed 2,090 rebels and captured 7,195 this year.

The PKK, which has never held territory inside Turkey, has hit back with attacks on tourist targets in western resorts.

In June, bombs in Marmaris and Fethiye killed a British woman and wounded 20 other people, half of them foreigners. A bomb killed

two foreigners in Istanbul's covered bazaar in April. Such attacks hit Turkey's purse, but may lose the PKK support in European countries sympathetic to Kurdish rights.

Turkey's approach to the PKK revolt has never been gentle, but Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's rise to power in June 1993 seemed to lift lingering restraints on the military.

"When DEP members speak up, the government says they are PKK. When human rights or union officials speak up, they are PKK. So, it means that to get rid of the PKK, the government must get rid of all the Kurds."

Her faith in armed forces Chief of Staff General Dogan Gures to tilt the balance decisively against the PKK appears to have paid off in terms of weakening the guerrillas militarily.

Ms. Ciller has courted public opinion by encouraging parliament to lift the immunity of Kurdish nationalist MPs, eight of whom are now in jail and six on the run in Europe. The constitutional court dissolved the Kurdish-based Democracy Party

(DEP) in June.

Cracking down on the MPs and other non-violent advocates of the Kurdish cause alarmed Turkey's western allies, but is popular with many Turks who believe they are surrogates for the PKK.

Turkish pressure on Iran, Syria and Kurdish-held northern Iraq to deny refuge to the PKK has also helped force the rebels onto the defensive in the forbidding ranges of the southeast.

The PKK denies losing ground, saying Turkey's daily stream of statements on rebel losses is mere propaganda which conceals heavy casualties inflicted on the army by the guerrillas.

Officials and PKK accounts of clashes can rarely be verified independently. Subtle changes in daily life may reveal more. In Diyarbakir, seat of the emergency rule regional governor, you can again buy Turkish newspapers on streets from which they had once disappeared in response to a PKK ban on Turkish media.

The governor's deputy, Ahmet Erturk, exudes a new air of confidence. "The situation is now quite good," he told Reuters.

"Mr. Erturk said low-level guerrilla activity was hard to halt, citing other countries' experience. "Just because a grenade is tossed or a mine laid on a road doesn't mean the PKK is strong."

An uneasy calm now prevails in war-weary towns such as Cizre and Sirnak, once hotbeds of PKK support. Many residents have simply left to escape the gunfire and mass roundups.

"Every time there was a

clash, the next day the army would retaliate by shooting up shops and arresting people," said one Kurd who used to run guns for the PKK.

PKK sources said the guerrillas decided early this year to beat a tactical retreat from some areas to relieve civilians.

Ankara, stung by western criticism of its human rights record, says PKK violence hampers government efforts to pass democratic reforms or tackle economic hardship in the southeast.

"The government is prepared to launch a major economic programme in the region, but we must have security first," said Ms. Ciller's adviser Volkan Vural. "We are approaching that stage."

He also spoke of Turkey's wide administrative reform to put more power in the hands of local government and said greater cultural freedoms for Kurds could also lie down the road.

People in the impoverished southeast now appear cowed, but force alone may not wean them permanently from the PKK.

Many Kurds do not share the PKK's vision of a Kurdish state, but say Turkey gives them few legal outlets for their views.

"How can you finish off the PKK?" asked Halit Temeli, head of the Human Rights Association office in Diyarbakir.

"When DEP members speak up, the government says they are PKK. When human rights or union officials speak up, they are PKK. So, it means that to get rid of the PKK, the government must get rid of all the Kurds," he said.

LETTERS

Attitude problem

To the Editor:

PETRA is one of the most important sites in Jordan. There have been negative letters regarding it in your newspaper for some time now.

People have complained about the tourist guides, horse guides, souvenir sellers, etc. Much has been said about the harassment of tourists. It seems everyone is blaming individuals working in Petra.

I think it is time for everyone to consider the possibility that it is the management in Petra that is the root cause of many, if not all, of the problems.

Anyone entering the visitors' centre can't help but be taken aback by the manner of the staff. The simplest request is sometimes met with total indifference.

Hopefully, there should be some enthusiasm in imparting knowledge about such a magnificent historical site, as well as a sense of pride in being Jordanian and "opening the eyes" of people from other countries to the history of a part of the world they may only visit once. The impression tourists take home with them and relate to their family and friends should be of a people proud of their land and country.

The management of Petra facilities should ensure that the visitors' centre is staffed by employees who are knowledgeable about what their job entails. Perhaps they should also speak more than one language "fluently." Their employment should also be based on sound credentials.

As to the tourist guides, this same criteria should be used. Maybe if management treated guides in a more humanistic manner, providing them with an area inside the building instead of leaving them outside on benches no matter what the weather, they would feel more like "ambassadors of goodwill" instead of "tourist dogs" as they have sometimes been called. When a bus drives up to the visitors' centre, the first sight tourists are treated to is 10-30 men sprawled outside.

It is up to the people in charge to make the necessary changes. The number of tourists in this area is increasing. Let's project a positive image of our country; not that of disconnected custodians of a crumbling old city.

Hani Masadah,
Tourist guide,
Wadi Moussa.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Rwanda's green fields conceal grisly secret

By Michela Wrong
Reuters

BISEKERO, Rwanda — Sprinkled with flowers, pierced by plunging ravines and cascading torrents, the rolling hills of western Rwanda must once have been the perfect place for a stroll.

No longer. A walk through these green fields has become a nauseating encounter with death. On every winding mountain path, in each clearing, its stench seizes you by the throat.

The dead lie scattered carelessly everywhere in these hills 30 km south of the town of Kibuye, a zone now in government hands but under the threat of imminent capture by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF).

These were Tutsi villagers who were hunted down and killed by the Rwandan army, Hutu militias and their erstwhile neighbours and friends after the assassination of the country's president.

Days, weeks, sometimes months later, no-one has had time to bury them. They lie exposed to the elements, skulls and bones beginning to peek through parched skin, slowly melting into the ground.

At first glance they look like piles of filthy clothing. But the smell gives the game away — here lie women, their arms flung out in despair, babies, their tiny skulls lying feet from their bodies, and children, their heads placed neatly on their chests.

Sewn around are shoes, clothes and the items they tried to take with them in the final flight — baskets, buckets, personal documents, hospital records charting their babies' growth.

During a one-hour walk we pass at least 50 bodies. There is no reason to think the next hill and valley are any different.

Descending to the river, we come upon a bunch of fresh corpses — proof that the Hutu attacks on this community have continued unabated since April and well after the arrival of the first French troops.

Three young men have been hurled aside down into the torrent, and the cascading water is washing away at their skin. Another

corpse lies next to the path, bloated beyond recognition.

"They hunted us with dogs," says our Tutsi guide, delicately pointing out each body with his staff. "They killed mothers, babies, pregnant women, the elderly. They had no mercy."

Tutsi cottages have been literally torn apart, brick by brick, such was the force of the hatred. Tiles and cooking pots are smashed, roofs set fire to and banana plants and sorghum shoots slashed.

"From eight in the morning till two in the afternoon, they would kill the Tutsis. Then from three onwards they would destroy the crops," comments our guide laconically.

Survivors estimate that the local Tutsi population of 10,000 has been reduced to around 1,000 — 800 of them now sheltering under French protection on a windswept mountain plateau.

"The worst of it was they wouldn't let us run away," says Eric, a 28-year-old teacher being fed by the French marines. "I tried to flee to Burundi. We walked all night, but they caught us on the road. Out of our party of 19, only four survived. So we came back."

As word of the French presence spreads, more and more emaciated Tutsis, many bearing suppurating machete and grenade wounds, are emerging from the woodland and abandoned buildings where they hid.

French army doctors treating the wounded are amazed by their condition after the weeks of privation. "They're very resistant, extremely resilient. They suffer in silence and do not show their pain," says one.

As a refugee group that once numbered a handful swells to over 800, the French are trying desperately to work out what action to take.

One option would be to set up a refugee camp here, but the only access road is in a terrible state and, in the long run, little would be solved. Another would be to evacuate the Tutsis — but where to?

"Most of us would like to stay if possible," says Eric. "We're used to the climate here. This is our home."

Arafat swears in cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

appealed to the groups opposed to the PLO-Israeli accord signed in Washington on Sept. 13 last year. Referring to a mandatory vow that prisoners hoping to be released by Israel must sign a pledge of support for the accord, Mr. Arafat said, "there is an attempt to barter with us so that we would give up on some of our brothers. The first one who must be released is my brother and my beloved man, Ahmad Yassin. We will not accept to barter."

Sheikh Yassin is the leader of Hamas, which opposes the accord.

While Mr. Arafat said "we will pray in Jerusalem" in Gaza on his first day there, he left no doubt about his intention to make Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state during his speech Tuesday in Jericho. "We must create an agricultural revolution in Jericho, the foundation of our Palestinian state, but our work and our struggle must continue until we establish our state with Jerusalem as its capital. God willing, God willing we will pray in Jerusalem."

"They must understand that this land is a Palestinian land, and they cannot stop any Palestinian movement here," Mr. Arafat said.

Nabli Shaath, the planning minister in his new cabinet, said the reason for the low numbers was "deliberate delays on the roads including the demonstrations of settlers which should have been cleared."

Mr. Arafat still wore a military uniform, but this time he walked along a red carpet as a bagpipe band played his national anthem. He then chaired the first meeting of his cabinet with only 14 of the 19 ministers present.

One hand on a bible and the other on a Koran, Mr. Arafat took the oath of office as the head of the civilian self-rule government, swearing to "Do my duty faithfully and honestly so help me God."

The cabinet was made up of businessmen and well-known politicians. It included one Christian member, Tourism Minister Elias Freij of Bethlehem, one woman, Labour and Social Welfare Minister Intissar Al Wazir.

By Kathy Evans

FIFTEEN YEARS after the Islamic revolution, Iranian women are finally winning back some of the rights they lost when the mullahs came to power. The battle is being led by a rapidly growing breed of women known as the "Islamic feminists." Conservative and religious, they are arguing that it is custom and social tradition, not the religion of Islam that has imposed oppressive laws.

The 1979 revolution was devastating for Iranian women. They were forced to wear the "chador," an all-enveloping black shroud, when in public or associating with men who were not close relatives. They lost the right to work in certain areas as the government tried to restrict men and women working together; some jobs and university courses were declared "male." The mullahs also revived the Shiite tradition of temporary marriage — a move women saw as licensed prostitution.

It was in the judicial system, however, that women lost most heavily. They were banned from becoming judges or even lawyers; their evidence was declared to be half that of a man's; and, unless a woman's evidence was corroborated by a man, it was ignored.

This final ruling had enormous impact. Women could no longer charge their husbands with domestic violence or abuse against themselves or their children. Under Islamic law, a father who murdered his child was excused from punishment, provided he paid blood money to the inheritor, usually himself.

The onset of Islamic law also led to a rash of "honour murders," with a girl's brother or father allowed to murder them for sexual transgressions. Another part of the code required that when a man murdered a woman, his victim's family paid blood money to his own family.

The recent push for equal treatment under the law questions the clergy's interpretations of Islam, but is couched in religious

terms with the ritual condemnations of the West. The campaign, launched by the women's magazine Zanan, has been joined by a number of the leaders' wives and daughters, including the president's daughter, Fahaze Rafsanjani, who has been lobbying for sports to be opened to women.

In parliament, the movement is headed by Maryam Behrouzi and eight other female MPs. Behrouzi has impeccable revolutionary credentials; she was imprisoned by the Shah's regime and her son was "martyred" in the war against Iraq.

There have already been successes. In 1991, Behrouzi won the argument for an end to discrimination in higher education. She also secured a lower retirement age for women. One victory was triggered by an embarrassing sit-down strike conducted by a 70-year-old woman in the capital. She had been divorced without reason by her husband and left with just her dowry, which, after 50 years, was worthless. Her plight prompted changes: All women are now entitled to wages for their housework; in the event of divorce, "obedient" wives can sue their husbands for back pay.

The most significant advance came last month with the battle by women MPs to prevent a bill that would have eliminated women from the judicial system altogether. Although officially all women were disbarred in 1980, they had been slowing creeping back; subsequent legislation allowed them to act as "advisers" to lawyers in the family courts and assistants to public prosecutors and magistrates. These slow encroachments enraged the Muslim clergy, who feared women would move through the ranks to become judges. In 1992, the post of adviser was eliminated and the bill brought to parliament for ratification.

It was, says Persian-born lecturer in political science Haleh Afshar of York University, an uphill battle. "The feminists had to disclaim any wish to aspire to equality or take charge of the Islamic government or its judiciary. They had to justify their demands in the name of faith rather than equality."



The veil is still there, but slowly the growing breed of 'Islamic feminists' is winning back some rights lost with the Islamic revolution (file photo)

versity, an uphill battle.

"The feminists had to disclaim any wish to aspire to equality or take charge of the Islamic government or its judiciary. They had to justify their demands in the name of faith rather than equality."

Behrouzi told parliament

that God alone is the law-maker and that human beings must submit to the laws of God. The argument against a parliament dominated by Muslim clergymen was as revolutionary as Luther's demands pinned to the church door.

Such arguments may seem timid to Western ears but for millions of Muslim women living under Islamic laws, they could be the only way forward. The Western-educated sophisticates have achieved little, they argue, and prefer to see their fu-

tures as émigrés in the West. The best way to fight the fundamentalists back home, they say, is to fight them on their own ground and challenge the religious ideals that they claim allow men to oppress women — *The Guardian*.

Competition to design the ECU

By Sophie Gherasdi

THE single European currency figures in the Maastricht Treaty but, as yet, has little meaning for the masses. One day (nearly eight years ago), Sylvia Bourdon, a simple citizen, realised that as long as this money, common to all the countries of the European Union, did not have a tangible, physical existence, people would not believe in it. The anticonformist Sylvia Bourdon, who is German by her mother and French by her father and passionately European, thus decided to bypass the tergiversations of the politicians and to bring the ECU to life.

This is how the "Graphic Competition for the ECU" came into being. Its chairwoman is Sylvia Bourdon. The idea, simple on paper, was to have artists from the twelve member-countries of the EEC, which has since become the European Union, design drafts for 1, 5 and 100 ECU coins and banknotes, with a view to creating a new kind of international competition. It took the chairwoman years of tireless procedures to gain the moral and material support of all the important people involved in the building of Europe. They were naturally wary of such an initiative, coming from a private individual, without the support of the state or that of financial experts. But what if there was a chance of its succeeding?

With a hint of encouragement, a lot of polite support and a little enthusiastic interest, Sylvia Bourdon succeeded in her undertaking. All through 1993, students and professional designers from the twelve member-countries worked at creating banknotes and coins. After a preliminary selection in each country, an international jury of personalities from the world of design made its final decision. It gave its verdict on Sunday, the Nov. 28, 1993, in Paris. Six banknotes were chosen (out of ninety-seven projects) and six coins (out of forty-four submitted).

The most austere banknote bears a black and white photo of the deceased German artist Joseph Beuys (seen from the back and recognisable by his tribby). It is symbolic of Berlin underground art. The most sumptuous banknote presents a composition made up from European art (eyes from portraits by Rembrandt, Georges de la Tour and Da Vinci, with their signatures superimposed). The most sober consists of different shades of blue with the stars of the European flag as the sole identification (so as not to conjure up any country, town or period in particular). The most original is a transparent plastic banknote with a leaf from a tree imprisoned in it (it would seem that such plastic banknotes exist in Australia).

The designs for the coins are also inspired by paintings, an inexhaustible heritage. One of the projects presents artists' signatures on the back. Others use symbols such as a compass, a book or the stars of the European flag. One team attempted a technical innovation with a circle of plexiglass having a hologram in the middle with a portrait of the Pope, (a curious idea for a pan-European project), surrounded by gold stars.

One of the designers on the jury, Helmut Langer (from Germany) sees these projects as a point of departure and a reservoir of ideas for the future. Sylvia Bourdon thinks that the central banks (the largest of which, the Bundesbank and the Bank of France, are rather reserved about the idea) will have to take these ECUs created by ordinary people into account when the time comes.

"The next stage," she explains, "is to have the European citizens vote. They are the ones who have to choose the form of their future money." So, at the beginning of June 1994, a sort of private enterprise referendum is to be launched from Amsterdam, just before the European elections. The initial idea had been to have photos of the banknotes and coins chosen by the jury published in the big national television magazines and to have the readers vote, but now Sylvia Bourdon is considering extending the scope and would like to have posters displayed showing the twelve projects chosen, in all the communities of the European Union.

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"There is reason to fear



Two samples among those selected by the international jury at the graphic competition for designing the ECU

She hopes to win the postal administration, or the companies which organise the lot-to nationwide game, over to her cause as they could display the posters and collect the voting slips "right to the

outer reaches of the last Greek island." Incredible? Unfeasible? These words are not part of the vocabulary of the chairwoman of the "Graphic Competition for the ECU."

With a few other masons such as her, the building of Europe would go faster... and would surely be a lot more fun!

L'actualité en France

Ghali backs French safe area plan in Rwanda

By Emmanuel Jarry
Reuters

PARIS — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali has backed a French proposal for a safe area to be set up in southwestern Rwanda to protect civilians from the civil war, the foreign ministry said on Saturday.

France, worried by the relentless advance of Rwandan rebels towards the region where its military force is deployed, has appealed to the U.N. to

endorse its plan for a "protected humanitarian area" south of Lake Kivu near the Zairean border.

In a letter to Dr. Ghali, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters, France said it would be forced to speedily withdraw its troops from Rwanda if it was unable to set up such an area with international support.

A senior French government source said the advance of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) on the southern government city

of Butare was putting thousands of terrified civilians to flight.

The source said the RPF, dominated by the minority Tutsi tribe, had almost reached Butare, which is held by the majority Hutus, raising the prospect of a standoff with the French troops whom the rebels have threatened to confront.

France has sent about 800 troops so far to protect civilians from further bloodshed in Rwanda,

where an estimated 500,000 people have been killed in ethnic violence since April.

In the letter sent to Dr. Ghali on Saturday, France underscored the risks of inaction: "If nothing is done, (the south-west) will risk being physically eliminated."

Refugees, the letter said, could seek a haven in neighbouring countries, especially Burundi.

Shortly after the proposal was unveiled, a spokeswoman for the foreign

ministry told Reuters: "Boutros-Ghali backs the decision we have taken to organise a safe humanitarian area where people will take cover from the fighting."

"he has informed the president of the Security Council who has promised to answer within the next few hours," she said.

A diplomatic source in Paris said the U.N.'s approval was a formality. "France will start setting up this area, that is certain,"

the source said. The senior government official quoted Dr. Ghali as telling France that a letter from the president of the U.N. Security Council could suffice to designate the safe area.

The French sent reinforcements to Gikongoro, 25 kilometres from Butare, on Friday. A French military spokesman said earlier the troops would push on from Gikongoro to Butare. "There is reason to fear

there will be more massacres two kilometres from the French soldiers and that we will be accused of complicity," the government source said. "On the other hand, the humanitarian zone must not become a Hutu enclave."

France is anxious to stress that it is neutral in the civil war and its troops will avoid coming into contact with the RPF and will not put themselves between RPF and government forces.

The rebels, who have the upper hand in the war, are deeply suspicious of France, which supported the previous Hutu government.

The rebel advance forced French authorities on Saturday to abandon a plan to set up a hospital in Butare, he said. Aid workers said the military hoped the mere presence of its forces in Gikongoro would deter the rebels from pressing on.

Financial Markets
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 1/7/1994	Tokyo Close Date: 5/7/1994
Sterling Pound	1.5380	1.5395
Deutsche Mark	1.5965	1.5973
Swiss Franc	1.5585	1.5420
French Franc	5.4670	5.4680**
Japanese Yen	96.75	99.50
European Currency Unit	1.1983	1.1980**

* USD Per STG
** European Unit: 1.1983 a.m. 1994

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	4.3800	4.6300	5.0600	5.6300
Sterling Pound	4.8100	4.9400	5.1900	5.8800
Deutsche Mark	4.7500	4.7500	4.7500	4.9400
Swiss Franc	4.0000	4.0000	4.1900	4.4400
French Franc	5.3100	5.4400	5.5600	5.8800
Japanese Yen	1.1100	1.8800	1.9400	2.0600
European Currency Unit	5.7500	5.8800	6.0000	6.1800

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	387.55	7.50	Silver	5.41	0.125

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0593	1.0646
Deutsche Mark	0.4312	0.4334
Swiss Franc	0.5136	0.5162
French Franc	0.1260	0.1266
Japanese Yen	0.6915	0.6950

Dutch Guilder	0.3845	0.3864
Swedish Krona	0.0436	0.0438
Italian Lira	0.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.0436	0.0438

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.5120	1.5240
Lebanese Lira	0.040000	0.041770
Saudi Riyal	0.1834	0.1842
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3250	0.3260
Omani Riyal	0.1870	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.02010	0.02250
Omani Riyal	1.7700	1.7860
UAE Dirham	0.1870	0.1880
Greek Drachma	0.02625	0.03040
Cypriot Pound	1.3235	1.4255

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3872/82	Canadian dollar
	1.5890/00	Deutsche marks
	1.7820/30	Dutch guilders
	1.3350/60	Swiss francs
	32.73/77	Belgian francs
	5.4420/70	French francs
	1574.2/5.7	Italian lire
	99.00/10	Japanese yen
	7.8250/50	Swedish crowns
	6.9590/40	Norwegian crowns
	2.5210/60	Danish crowns
	1.5414/24	

One sterling \$1.5414/24

One ounce of gold \$387.75/388.25

Number of billionaires jumps worldwide—report

NEW YORK (AFP) — Japanese hotel and railroad magnate Yoshiaki Tsutsumi is the world's richest individual, with a net worth of \$8.5 billion, according to Forbes magazine.

The magazine's annual list

ing of billionaires released Monday said the number of billionaire individual and families in the world has jumped from 47 to 358 in the last year.

Latin America had the fastest growing billionaire

population, with 42 this year, up from six in 1987, the first year Forbes compiled the list.

Asia, excluding Japan, listed 46 billionaires, up from 14 in 1987.

The United States ranks as the largest producer of billionaires, with 120 according to Forbes. The country is also home to the world's richest family, the Waltons, of Wal-Mart discount store fame.

Together, the wealth of the world's billionaires totalled \$765 billion.

Forbes said it excludes

royalty and dictators from the

ratings.

After the Walton family was the U.S.-based Mars family of candy bar fame, worth \$9.6 billion, the chemical industry's du Pont family of the United States, \$9 billion and Swedish packaging magnates Hans and Gad Rausing, \$9 billion.

Mr. Tsutsumi was fifth

overall on the list, but the top

individual. The sixth richest

was Microsoft founder Bill

Gates, worth \$8.2 billion, followed

by U.S. businessman

Warren Buffett, \$7.9 billion;

Switzerland's Paul Sacher

and the Hoffmann family of

Hoffmann-La Roche, \$7.8

billion; Taiwan's insurance

and construction Tsai family,

\$7.5 billion; and German super-

market owners Theo and

Karl Albrecht, \$7.3 billion.

Maritime company profits \$9.8m

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Arab Bridge Maritime Company (ABMC), one of the few success stories of Arab joint ventures, made a net profit of \$9.8 million during 1993 and has chalked out an ambitious plan to interact with the requirements of increased tourism in the region, the senior executive of the company said Tuesday.

Mohammad Dalabieh, general manager of ABMC, which is owned equally by the governments of Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, said the company was planning to introduce fast-ferry services between Aqaba and Egypt's Nuweibeh port this year.

Also planned is a similar service between Aqaba and the Sharm Sheikh near the Tiran Straits, at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba, for tourists. Sharm Sheikh is in Egyptian territory and offers one of the best picnic and tourism spots in the area.

"We hope that these services will help boost tourism in the initial phase," said Captain Dalabieh, noting that the fast-ferry service between Aqaba and Nuweibeh will cut travel time to one hour from the present three hours on regular passenger-cargo boats operated by the company.

At present, the company operates two daily shuttles on the route with boats: Concord, Jimmy and Noor, with a capacity of 15,700 passengers and 350 vehicles.

Capt. Dalabieh said the company, which was formed in 1985 and started commercial activities in March 1988, carried 1,248,166 passengers in 1993 compared with 1,205,904 in 1992 and 709,786 in 1989, the first full year of operations.

The number of vehicles fluctuated; 47,755 in 1989, 73,765 in 1990, 65,511 in 1991, 60,181 in 1992 and 57,433 in 1993 (expatriates leaving Kuwait through Iraq and Jordan in their vehicles using the ferry service accounted for the sharp rises in 1990 and 1991).

The company transported 270,539 tonnes of cargo in 1993 compared with 230,892 tonnes in 1992, 186,253 in 1991, 144,814 in 1990 and 114,154 in 1989.

Net profits rose to \$9,789,231 in 1993 compared with \$8,986,546 in 1992, \$3,608,003 in 1991, \$4,675,041 in 1990 and \$4,925,961 in 1989.

The \$6 million company was set under an accord between Jordan, Egypt and Iraq, the countries which, along with Yemen, formed the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in 1989. The council went dormant in 1990 following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and is no longer considered a feasible project to be revived, particularly after the Egyptian parliament endorsed a proposal to withdraw Egypt from the regional bloc.

Capt. Dalabieh said the three ferry boats now in operation between Aqaba and Nuweibeh were chartered but the company had an option to buy them. Under this arrangement, the company already owns 75 per cent of the Jimmy, he said.

The company employs about 100 people, most of them Jordanian, but also Egyptian and Iraqi. Headquartered at Aqaba, the company maintains offices in Amman, Cairo and Agaba.

The bulk of the passengers using the ferry service is Egyptian. The \$18 cost per person is around 15 per cent of the air fare between Cairo and Amman. The charge for a medium-size car is \$100 and the rate for bigger vehicles ranges between \$150 and \$300.

The service is an essential link in travel between the Arab countries east of the Suez Canal and the Arab Maghreb states, particularly during the Haj season.

With prospects of increased tourism against the backdrop of an Arab-Israeli peace settlement in the horizon, the link assumes additional importance in package tours in the region.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Albanian loses wife in Cup bet

TIRANA (R) — An Albanian short of cash for gambling lost his wife after betting her on the outcome of a World Cup soccer match, the daily newspaper Koha Jone (Our Time) said Tuesday. The unidentified gambler was so sure that Argentina would beat Bulgaria that he staked his spouse, who disappeared with the winner when Bulgaria won 3-2. The loser complained to police.

Vatican condemns World Cup

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican said Monday the murder of Colombian World Cup defender Andres Escobar showed how soccer had become a vehicle for violence. Escobar, 27, was shot dead in the Colombian city of Medellin Saturday by gunmen apparently angry at his own goal in Colombia's 2-1 defeat by the United States. The Vatican newspaper Osservatore Romano pointed to this, and the death of a soccer fan in Mexico city a week ago when celebrations by thousands of fans turned sour, as evidence that the game was steeped in killing and violence. An editorial said: "USA '94 will not be remembered for the cup being joyously held up in victory, but for that player in the penalty area, a horror written on his face after the own goal, a symbol of desperation and death."

Graf wins court battle

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AFP) — A German rock group who claimed tennis star Steffi Graf had an incestuous relationship with her father in a song will have to pay her \$37,500 in damages, it was confirmed in court here Tuesday. A constitutional court rejected an appeal from the group, Die Angefahrene Schulkinder ("The Run-over Schoolchildren"), who based their defence on a plea of artistic freedom and satire. The band was ordered to pay Graf the damages in April by an appeal court in Karlsruhe, confirming an earlier decision by a tribunal in Mannheim. Graf sued them after they released the record in 1992. The appeal court ruled the group had described the tennis world number one as an "object of sexual desire" and had offended her dignity. The constitutional court gave no reasons for its decision and also ordered the group to pay interest on the original damages.

Maradona's wrong medicine

MONTEREY (AFP) — Diego Maradona went to the wrong man for his ephedrine pick-me-up. Dr. Ben Tabachnik, a Soviet athletics coach in the '70s now in private practice in Monterey, California, had developed a super juice to tone up tired muscles. Russian striker Oleg Salenko, who scored a World Cup record five goals against Cameroon, used the cocktail of Siberian ginseng, schizandra, maral root, golden root, Manchurian thorn tree, Chinese liquorice and rose. Dr. Tabachnik says his Prime One potion performs many of the functions of anabolic steroids without the negative side-effects and has passed the drugs tests. "Prime helps but so does hard work," said Tabachnik.

Perfect pitch for uniting people

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Tenor Placido Domingo was in the crowd in Washington on Saturday to see Sweden beat Saudi Arabia for a place in the World Cup quarter-finals. He said U.S. fans who have not quite figured out the game's nuances shouldn't worry. "What soccer and opera have in common is that they both unite people," he said. "You can enjoy either without understanding a word." Domingo, who is joining up with Luciano Pavarotti and Jose Carreras to reprise their Three Tenors concert in honour of the World Cup, has put in a little time on the pitch himself. "I used to be a goalie but now I play up front," he said. "Tenors are strikers, really, always pushing forward."

Christie loses unbeaten record

LINZ, Austria (AFP) — Britain Olympic and world champion sprinter Linford Christie lost his season's unbeaten record here Monday as he was shown up by Nigerian Davidson Ezinwa. The up-and-coming 22-year-old Ezinwa ran under ten seconds in the heats and then produced a year's and personal best 9.94sec to see off Christie, who trailed in third (10.03) as American Dennis Mitchell took second (9.97). The result left Christie, hero of Britain's European Cup qualification last month, defeated. Hurdler Mark McKoy, once of Canada but now an Austrian for whom he will compete in the European games in August, was inspired by his new colours to run 13.18sec. That was good enough to beat the Austrian record, as well as second-place Tong Li of China. Olympic gold medalist McKoy, married to former German track star Yvette Grabner, is warming up for a Helsinki clash with friend and training partner Colin Jackson, the Welsh world champion.

Referee axed from World Cup after ignoring penalty claim

DALLAS, Texas (AFP) — Swiss referee Kurt Rothlisberger, who refused a blatant penalty for Belgium in their World Cup second round match against Germany, has been axed from the rest of the tournament, FIFA said here Monday.

"He will not referee again in the tournament," said FIFA General Secretary Sepp Blatter. Rothlisberger, a 43-year-old school teacher, waved play on after Belgium's Josip Weber was brought down in the penalty area by Thomas Helmer and Andreas Brehme when the Germans were leading 3-1. The match finished 3-2 for Germany.

Blatter said he spoke by telephone to Rothlisberger late Sunday who admitted he had made a blunder. "I am so sorry," he told Blatter.

According to Blatter, Rothlisberger said his vision had been blocked by a player but the moment he saw the reaction of the players and

the crowd to his decision to play on he knew he had made a mistake.

"He told me that when he was in doubt he would not blow his whistle," said Blatter.

"It was an obvious penalty. The Belgium player was taken down by two German players in a sandwich," added Blatter.

The Belgium Football Association sent a formal complaint to FIFA, saying they had become the first "victim" of referees failing to carry out FIFA's instructions.

Before the tournament FIFA had ordered referees to send off players who tackled from behind or who fouled a player to stop him from scoring.

Rothlisberger will be formally axed Wednesday when the World Cup referees committee meets to decide the final rota for the remainder of the championship.

Until Sunday's error he had been one of the favourites to referee the final

in the Pasadena Rose Bowl July 17.

"Rothlisberger had been one of the best referees in the competition," said Blatter.

Also axed from the referees list for making a serious mistake was Italy's Pierluigi Pairetto who was in charge of the thrill-a-minute Argentina-Romania match which Romania won 3-2.

"There was a foul play where a player should have been sent off and a penalty given but neither was done," said Blatter.

Romania's Tibor Selymes brought down Diego Simeone as he stepped into the penalty area but Pairetto awarded a free-kick for an offence outside the area.

But the FIFA general secretary insisted that neither of the two refereeing blunders changed the result of the matches.

"Neither Argentina nor Belgium were robbed. It is not even sure they would have scored from the penalties," said Blatter.

Boardman's Tour de France dream dashed

EUROTUNNEL, France (AFP) — Unlucky Chris Boardman saw his hopes of wearing the Tour de France yellow jersey in his native England dashed on Tuesday.

Belgian Johan Museeuw ripped the leadership from his grasp after his GB-MG team won the third stage 66.5km team time trial between Calais and the Eurotunnel.

Boardman put in a heroic performance after his GAN outfit were hit by a series of problems but Museeuw, winner of the Amstel Gold Race earlier this season, wiped out the 23 seconds he needed to take the race lead.

Spanish favourite Miguel Indurain, whose Banesto team came third with an 18 second deficit, stayed in second overall, ten seconds behind.

Rolf Sorensen was in third and world champion Lance Armstrong, whose American Motorola team were second six seconds behind the lead-

ers Tuesday, moved up to fourth.

Boardman's teammate and former tour winner Greg LeMond said: "We had some problems, it's true, and I thought we tried to ride too fast on certain uphill sections."

"It's a pity for Chris — if we had eight men like him we would have won by ten minutes."

"He did such a lot of work on the front. But in the end we didn't do so badly. We were all tired at the end — except for Chris, who was still as fresh as a daisy."

Boardman's day began badly when he struggled with the handlebars on his Lotus bike and was forced to tighten them up while still riding.

Things then got worse as teammate Greg LeMond was hit by mechanical problems before struggling to stay in touch.

Frenchman Jean-Philippe Dojwa was also dropped.

World Cup schedule

Saturday, July 9
Game 45
At Foxboro, Mass.
Nigeria-Italy winner vs. Spain, 1605 GMT
Game 46
At Dallas
Netherlands vs. Brazil, 1935 GMT

Sunday, July 10
Game 47
At East Rutherford, N.J.
Mexico-Bulgaria winner vs. Germany, 1605 GMT
Game 48
At Stanford, Calif.
Sweden vs. Romania, 1935 GMT

Semifinals
Wednesday, July 13
At East Rutherford: N.J.
Game 47 winner vs. Game 45 winner, 2005 GMT
At Pasadena, Calif.
Game 48 winner vs. Game 46 winner, 2335 GMT

Third place
Saturday, July 16
At Pasadena, Calif.
Semifinal losers, 1935 GMT

Championship
Sunday, July 17
At Pasadena, Calif.
Semifinal winners, 1935 GMT

Roberto Baggio saves Italy

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) — Roberto Baggio saved Italian honour here Tuesday, scoring both goals in their 2-1 second round win against Nigeria and winning a quarter-final tie against Spain.

With 88 minutes gone he pulled 10-man Italy back into contention, forcing extra time with a 1-1 equaliser, then scored the decider from the penalty spot in the 101st minute.

Nigeria led after 26 minutes and were only two minutes away from an historic win when the world and European player of 1993 struck.

Italy were just as close to being showered with abuse and rotten tomatoes on their unexpectedly early return to Rome.

But the 28-year-old Juventus star, winning his 40th cap, rifled home a well struck goal, his 20th for the national side, from a cross from the right to win the Italians a World Cup reprieve.

Then with 10 minutes gone of the extended period, he lobbed a pass into the path of

overlapping defender Antonio Benarrivo, who was wrestled to the ground within yards of goal by Augustine Eguavoen.

Baggio, criticised for failing to sparkle in the U.S. so far, stepped up to stroke the spot kick to the right of keeper Peter Rufai and in off the post.

Nigeria went ahead from a defensive lapse by captain and backline organiser Paolo Maldini, the 26-year-old AC Milan star.

The error was severely punished. Maldini, winning his 55th cap here, was at fault when he failed to clear a corner and his miss-kick was a gift-horse to 23-year-old Emmanuel Amonike.

The player, soon to move from African champions Zamalek to Bundesliga club Duisburg, was on target in Nigeria's opening game against Bulgaria.

He made no mistake, chipping Italy's stand-in goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani from close range.

Earlier, World Cup newcomer Gianfranco Zola, brought on for Signori, made

sure Italy had a battle on their hands when he was sent off 12 minutes later.

Zola, on his 28th birthday, got the red card for a retaliatory tackle on right back Eguavoen although television replays showed he failed to make contact.

Mexican referee Arturo Brizio Carter, who sent two people off in his two first round games, had no hesitation in spoiling the anniversary celebrations.

Carter showered yellow cards like confetti. Giuseppe Signori got one for a penalty area dive, with Carter dismissing his plea for a penalty.

Italy brought on Dino Baggio, the 23-year-old playmaker, for the second half in place of Nicola Berti and he almost scored with his first touch in the 46th minute.

His close range shot from a corner was deflected onto the post by a sensational save from Peter Rufai.

He was a potent threat for the rest of the match, and did a great job in defence too, clearing a Rashidi Yekini strike off the line in the 103rd minute.

The Mansell gamble that failed to pay off

MAGNY COUR, France (AFP) — Nigel Mansell's "guest appearance" at the French Grand Prix was a gamble which failed to pay off.

The 1992 world champion, hoping for a fairy tale return, was instead forced to roll off the track and into retirement with gearbox failure.

It did not pay off for team owner Frank Williams either, who had hoped Mansell could score points for the team in the constructors' world championship.

Nor did it entirely pay Renault engine supplier to Williams and the driving force behind Mansell's brief return to Formula One from the U.S. IndyCar series.

Renault was looking for a win or at least a strong result from Mansell against rival French manufacturer Peugeot in their home Grand Prix.

They did achieve a second place — ironically through the efforts of Damon Hill — and did get considerable publicity from Mansell's presence while the Peugeot engines in the rival McLaren's self-destructed in the race.

But the gamble may have paid off for Formula One supreme Bernie Ecclestone, the wily negotiator who finally made Mansell's appearance possible.

As the only super-star driver available to Formula One after the death of Ayrton Senna and the retirement of Alain Prost, Mansell's presence generated worldwide interest likely to have been translated into a boost for the Formula One television sales that Ecclestone handles.

The ex-world champion set

the final qualifying session alight Saturday as he traded pole position with his teammate Damon Hill, clearly outpacing the unusually off-form Benetton-Ford of Michael Schumacher.

But when it came to the 80th French Grand Prix Sunday, Mansell was only just there or thereabouts. Out-gunned from the front by Schumacher's brilliant start and Hill's "second best start of my career," Mansell was left fighting to hold third place ahead of a fired-up Jean Alesi in the much approved Ferrari.

Mansell was never in a position to challenge Hill, far less Schumacher, who went on to score his sixth victory in seven Grands Prix this year (he placed second in the other one).

There was no comment from the hurrying Mansell at the end of his French adventure, except to wish Hill well. He was away from the circuit en route to his private jet heading for Florida before the race ended.

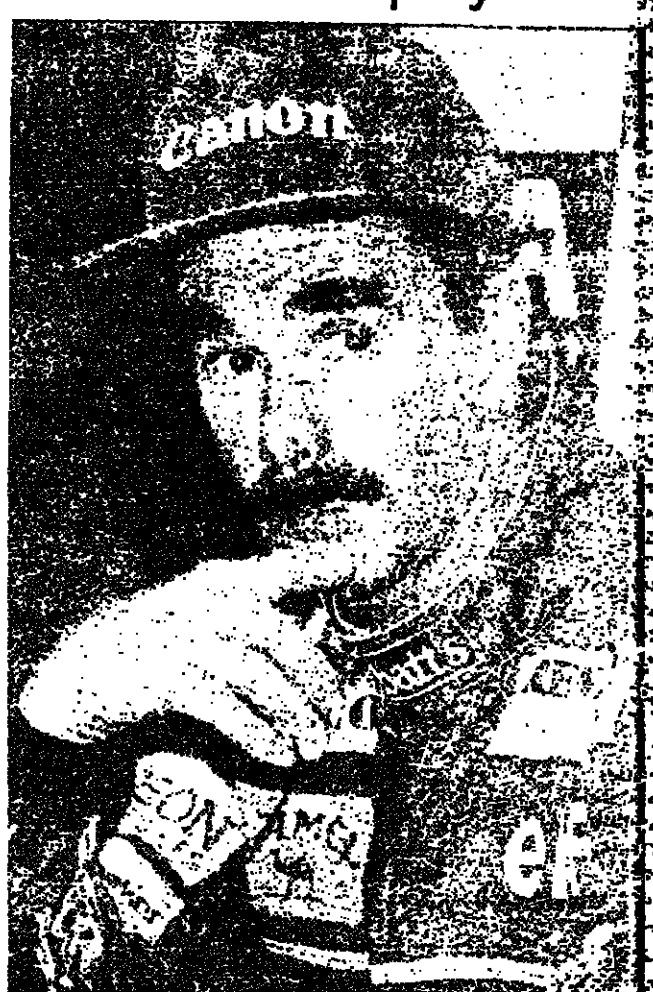
But he clearly enjoyed the limelight during his two days of qualifying and could well be seen in the Williams again this season, despite the considerable fee he commanded here, which varying reports set as high as \$1.5 million.

But it was Hill who may well come out of the day as the big winner. He and David Coulthard, the Williams test driver brought into the team after Senna's death, have been vainly asking the team for various technical changes to the difficult Williams FW16.

Hill made it clear that Mansell had immediately confirmed his analysis and that the team had then made the changes which Hill had suggested earlier.

The weekend thus gave Hill reinforced credibility inside Williams. His performance in the race pursuing Schumacher to the limit was impressive and it was only team strategy that defeated him. Benetton and Schumacher opted for three pit stops for fuel and tyres.

Williams and Hill for only two. The lighter Benetton on fresher tyres was uncatchable.



Nigel Mansell

confirmed his analysis and that the team had then made the changes which Hill had suggested earlier.

The weekend thus gave Hill reinforced credibility inside Williams.

His performance in the race pursuing Schumacher to

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The closing date for submitting tenders is 12:00 hours local time Tuesday 26th July 1994.

Sameh Madani
Managing Director

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Both vulnerable, South deals. NORTH ♠ J 3 2 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ A K 8 6 ♣ K 6. EAST ♠ 7 6 4 ♥ 8 5 5 ♦ Q 9 7 ♣ 10 2. SOUTH ♠ A K Q 10 9 ♥ 6 ♦ 9 7 4 ♣ A Q J 10. The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass. Opening lead: King of ♠. Think twice before adopting a line of play. There may be a better one waiting in the wings, eager to be discovered.

North-South, despite only 26 high-card points in the combined holding, bid well to a fair slam. After South's high reverse of three clubs, North set spades as the trump suit. There followed a series of cue-bids,

and when South could move over four spades, North's king of clubs was the final inducement to push on.

Declarer ruffed the second heart and could count only 11 tricks—five trumps, four clubs and two diamonds. South opted to try to ruff a diamond in dummy for the 12th.

After drawing two rounds of trumps and cashing the ace-king of diamonds, declarer played off four clubs. The intention was to discard the table's diamonds on winning clubs and that would have worked had the defender with four clubs also held three trumps. Unfortunately, that was not the case. West ruffed the fourth club and declarer was forced to concede down one.

Once the defenders had led a second heart, forcing declarer to ruff, the contract could have been made via a dummy reversal. When both defenders follow to two rounds of trumps, declarer uses the ace and king of diamonds as entries to ruff dummy's two remaining hearts. Now South can get back to the board with the king of clubs to draw the outstanding trump with the jack, discarding a diamond from hand. Three more club tricks bring declarer's total to 12—three trump tricks, three heart ruffs, two diamonds and four clubs.

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Money arriving for self-rule — Qouriea

TUNIS (R) — The Palestinian official in charge of economy and trade for the self-rule Gaza Strip and West Bank area said on Tuesday that international donors had made money available for the start-up costs of Palestinian self-government and infrastructure investments.

"Our talks in Washington with the World Bank and the United States administration officials were very positive and excellent," Ahmad Qouriea, better known as Abu Alaa, told Reuters in an interview.

Abu Alaa who has the economy and trade portfolio in the Palestinian Authority, returned in Tunis on Monday after a one-week visit to Washington.

During his trip he met World Bank heads and staff and U.S. State Department, trade and Congress officials.

"The visit was successful and permitted the commitment of both the World Bank and the United States to support the Palestinian authority in facing the economic challenges ahead and ensuring Palestinian success in improving the quality of life of the people in the West Bank and Gaza," he added.

Abu Alaa said the World Bank, which acts as secretary of the international donors

group formed to help the Palestinians, had agreed to make available \$51 million, sufficient to cover the total budget gap of the third quarter of 1994.

The World Bank also agreed to make available \$150 million for urgent infrastructure projects in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, he said.

"This is to start immediately. The offers for tender are to be issued within one week or 10 days," Abu Alaa said.

Another \$18 million was also made available for technical assistance including feasibility studies for investment projects and training, he said.

Abu Alaa said an additional \$140 million was being invested by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in sectors such as health, education, training and sewerage in the refugee camps.

He said the PLO and World Bank agreed to postpone a donor group meeting in Paris from July 11 to Sept. 7-9 in order to secure its success in mobilising more funds.

Palestinians, World Bank and donor representatives will visit before September the main donors capitals in an effort to mobilise additional funds. These are to cover the fourth quarter budget gap.

also about \$50 million, and match available donor pledges to specific investment projects, he said.

He said the PLO and World Bank also agreed on a mechanism to make funds available for the Palestinian police budget from the general budget. Palestinian police expenditure is estimated at \$7 million a month.

Abu Alaa said the budget covered spending by the civil administration inherited from Israeli rule, welfare payments, a Gaza clean-up campaign, transfer costs from PLO's headquarters in Tunis to the self-rule areas, rehabilitation of detainees, education and health institutions.

He said that priority projects selected for immediate implementation included water distribution, electricity, telephone, sewerage and education and health.

Abu Alaa said U.S. officials had "welcomed" the idea of offering the Palestinians the clause of most favoured nation to boost their trade relations.

"Although this advantage is agreed with states, U.S. officials said they will examine the case to get a way for such an agreement... I am confident they will do it," Abu Alaa said.



Aden residents queue for water by a vehicle of the International Committee of the Red Cross (AFP photo)

UNICEF sounds alarm over children in Yemen civil conflict

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thousands of children trapped in the besieged southern Yemeni stronghold of Aden risk death from diseases and dehydration in the absence of drinking water, proper food and medical care, a senior United Nations official said Tuesday.

The warning added to a mounting chorus of concern, from international relief organisations, for the worsening situation in Aden where water installations, hospitals, schools and utilities have been seriously damaged in seven weeks of northern shelling in the civil war that began on May 4.

Shortage of water is mounting in the city and the International Committee of the Red Cross has been appealing for safety for repair crews to water installations.

Reports said Tuesday northern Yemeni forces had captured parts of Aden, the major base of the southerners in the impoverished Arabian Peninsula country.

Omwale, representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Yemen, also expressed concern that children under 15 were being drafted into the army "on both sides of the conflict" in violation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Yemen is a signatory to that convention.

The two main concerns of UNICEF, Mr. Omwale told a press conference here, are over the life-threatening situation facing Yemeni children and their role in violence that would leave them "traumatised."

"Without additional funding we will be unable to respond to the needs, particularly that the situation in Aden has deteriorated."

"Reports indicate that the population (in Aden) is on the brink of suffering from starvation and deaths from dehydration," said Mr. Omwale, adding that his in-

formation came from local UNICEF staff who remain in Aden. The U.N. agency withdrew its international staff from Aden, where national staff remains.

The country office of UNICEF and international staff remain in Sanaa, the federal capital.

However, UNICEF relief work in Aden is coordinated with the ICRC, "which in fact is doing the kind of things that we would do if we had an international presence."

But the "assistance has been stretched to the limit," he said, noting that reports say that Mukalla, another southern stronghold, has been "if not entered at least under serious siege."

An ICRC-sponsored ship was on its way to Aden carrying relief supplies on Tuesday. However, the volume of relief is a far cry from the actual needs of Aden residents.

UNICEF estimates that 40,000 people displaced as a result of the war have sought refuge in Aden, adding to the city's already difficult situation. Another 2,000 displaced are outside Aden in addition to 4,000 Somalis who had sought shelter in Yemen from their war-torn homeland across the Gulf of Aden.

Noting that UNICEF by definition, is concerned with the well-being of children everywhere, Mr. Omwale said:

"If this war is not stopped very soon, we will have large numbers of traumatised children, adults as well, some of whom might be unrecoverable. We have credible reports of children under 15 who are serving in the armed forces... on both sides of the conflict."

"I can only speak of the Republic of Yemen as the

signatory," said the U.N. official when asked whether the agency held the southerners committed to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in view of the breakaway state they declared on May 20.

In any event, he said, UNICEF did not come across rejection from any side of its humanitarian work in Yemen, whether in the south or the north, but the agency is unable to do anything since it does not have access to some of the conflict areas.

"Without a ceasefire, official support (for UNICEF work) cannot be translated into practical action," he said.

On the external front, "funding is a major concern," he said, renewing an appeal to the international community to extend help. No definite estimates of needs could be ascertained because of the war situation.

Other parts of Yemen are also seriously affected by the war, directly and indirectly. Apart from the deaths and injuries sustained in the conflict, Yemenis are also suffering from the "secondary and tertiary" effects of war.

Prices have soared and people have lost their livelihoods as a result of the violence, noted Mr. Omwale.

Among the worst affected are many of the poor Yemenis who were expelled from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait as a result of their country's sympathy for Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. Between 800,000 and one million Yemenis were forced to leave Saudi Arabia alone.

Another concern is that unless the farmlands of the country receive water in the two to three weeks, this year's harvest would be seriously affected negatively, said Mr. Omwale.

U.S.-Jordan ties excellent — Egan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley Egan has described relations between Jordan and the United States as excellent noting that His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Washington last month further contributed to the strengthening of ties and resulted in expression of a mutual commitment to work for the establishment of a Middle East peace.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of the United States Independence Day anniversary, Mr. Egan said: "King Hussein's meeting and discussion in Washington with the president, the secretary of state, the secretary of defence, the speaker of the House of Representatives and other congressional leaders reaffirmed our practical commitment to the closest cooperation in support of the security and economic development of Jordan, the pursuit of peace and improvements in the quality of life for all people in the region."

"I believe both governments respect and have a full appreciation of the concerns, needs and objectives on which our relationship can and will be based in the future."

In statements to reporters upon returning to Amman from his visit to the United States, King Hussein described the trip as successful. The United States administration was "serious about the peace process and under-

stands our positions and stand," he said.

"The U.S. administration has reaffirmed its keenness on maintaining strong ties with Jordan in a most positive manner," the King added.

Referring to the peace process, the U.S. ambassador said his country was committed to the pursuit of peace in the Middle East.

"Over the years, we have dedicated significant resources and political attention to this issue and to this region in an effort to assist in the realisation of a just and durable peace," he said.

As long as the parties remain devoted to the search for peace, he said, the United States "will continue to play an active, dynamic and creative role in support of those efforts."

Referring to the Kingdom's role in the process, the ambassador said: "Jordan's full and active engagement in the bilateral and multilateral negotiating tracks is fundamental to the achievement of peace, security, economic development and the realisation of the full potential of this region."

The ambassador spoke during a reception marking the Independence Day anniversary attended by dignitaries including Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, the King's adviser Marwan Al Qasem, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and other officials, Cabinet and Parliament members and diplomats.

N. Korea set for U.S. talks

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korea's delegation left for Geneva Tuesday to reopen high-level talks with the United States while Pyongyang's media made an apparent attack on U.S. influence in Korean affairs.

North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Ju left Pyongyang as head of the delegation to a long-pending third round of high-level talks with the United States opening in Geneva Friday, the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

The North Korean Workers Party newspaper, meanwhile, urged the two Koreas to seek reconciliation at their unprecedented summit in Pyongyang July 25-27 while fighting "interventionist manoeuvres of outside forces" — its standard reference to the U.S. presence in South Korea.

"If the North and the South are to be reconciled and united, neither of them must rely upon outside forces which seek to fish in troubled waters by setting the fellow countrymen of the two parts against each other," the newspaper Rodong Sinmun said.

The commentary, carried by the official North Korean news agency monitored here, also called on the two Koreas to "finally stop the political warfare and mud-slinging that cut the other side to the quick and incited distrust."

North Korea and the United States held two rounds of talks between Mr. Kang and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci in New York and Geneva in June and July last year.

But their third round had been postponed due to the nuclear standoff resulting from the North's refusal to allow full international inspections of its facilities suspected of developing nuclear bombs.

Washington agreed to reopen the high-level talks after North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung offered to freeze his suspected nuclear programme when he received former U.S. President Jimmy Carter in mid-June in Pyongyang.

Mr. Kim also expressed his readiness to hold an unprecedented summit with rival South Korea. The two sides have agreed to meet in Seoul on July 25-27 in the North Korean capital.

White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers has said the upcoming talks between Mr. Kang and Mr. Gallucci would continue "as long as they're productive."

In March last year, North Korea decided to quit the nuclear non-proliferation Treaty in protest of growing international pressure to inspect its two undeclared sites suspected of developing nuclear bombs.

Syria blasts Israel on South Lebanon

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The newspaper of the Ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party Tuesday lashed out at Israel's renewed aggression on South Lebanon and claimed it was an effort to undermine the upcoming trip to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"The Israeli aggression seems to have political missions as whenever the region approaches the climate of overtore, Israel finds out a way to disturb it either by launching aggression on South Lebanon or by committing new massacre," said Al Baath.

Israeli jets blasted guerrilla bases in South Lebanon Monday shortly after resistance forces killed an Israeli soldier in a ground assault.

Al Baath accused Israel of trying to undermine Mr. Christopher's forthcoming trip.

"The Israeli aggression has come within the framework of Israeli rulers' practices not only to pressure Lebanon but also the United States prior to Christopher's new trip to the region," it said.

The daily warned that the

battle against Israel's occupation of a border strip in South Lebanon will continue.

"Israel has to end its occupation of South Lebanon or the south will turn to be a death swamp for its soldiers," said the newspaper.

Two Palestinian groups have claimed responsibility for an attack in South Lebanon on Sunday in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and three injured.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said a joint commando had blown up an Israeli patrol in southern Lebanon by placing explosives on the road.

Israel's proxy South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia said Sunday that the Israelis were killed and injured when their armoured vehicle smashed into an electricity pylon.

The high-tension wires fell on the vehicle, causing a fatal electric shock, the militia said.

On Monday, Hizbollah guerrillas firing anti-tank rockets, machine guns and mortars attacked four positions in Israel's self-declared "security zone," including those held by the army SLA.

NEWS IN BRIEF

PLO bids to win back refugee support

SIDON (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has resumed financial aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and named a new Fatah command in a bid to win back shipping support, PLO officials said here Tuesday. The Fatah command fell out of favour with many Palestinian refugees in Lebanon after the historic PLO-Israeli handshake on Sept. 13 which led to the signing of the May 4 agreement launching self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Sympathy for the PLO also fell after the organisation drastically reduced financial, social and medical aid to Lebanon's refugees following the start of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid in October 1991. Fatah officials identified the members of the new command as Sultan Abdul Aynan, Bader Krayem, Kamal Medhat and Khaled Aref. The new Fatah command, the third in less than a year, immediately contacted dissident Fatah official Munir Maqadha who controls the 'Ain Helweh camp. Lebanon's largest on the eastern outskirts of the southern port of Sidon.

Swiss tell Iranian to reapply for asylum

BERNE (R) — Swiss authorities said on Tuesday they would allow a man claiming to be an Iranian dissident to apply for asylum a second time and denied they had handed him over to the Iranian embassy. The Paris-based Iranian dissident group Mujahideen-e-Khalq said on Monday one of its supporters, Aqil Abdollahi, 32, had been seized by Swiss police and handed over to the Iranian embassy in Berne. "I don't know where that came from, it's not true," Mr. Heinz Schoeni, spokesman for the Swiss federal refugee office, told Reuters.

Six sentenced to death in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Six armed Muslim fundamentalists, one of whom is on the run, have been sentenced to death by a special court in Algiers, judicial officials said Tuesday. The court Monday also sentenced three other members of the group known as "Soumaa" of life imprisonment and 13 were given sentences ranging from two to 20 years in prison. Three special courts were set up in Algeria on Feb. 22, 1993. The court in Algiers has since issued 371 death sentences and the one in Constantine 40. Twenty-six of those sentenced were executed while some 60 on death row escaped in March from the Tazult-Lambese prison near Batna.

Indian troops kill Sudanese in Kashmir

SRINAGAR (AFP) — Indian troops shot dead a Sudanese national and five Kashmiri militants in a town north of here on Tuesday, police said. Ibn Masood, an electrical engineer from Sudan was gunned down along with the five other militants by paramilitary troops during a search operation in Sopore, 60 kilometres from Srinagar, police said. The 33-year-old Sudanese, a reputed expert in making landmines, was wanted by the authorities in connection with attacks on Indian troops by separatist guerrillas in the troubled northern state, police said.

Turkey condemns killing in Greece

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey condemned the killing of a Turkish diplomat by unidentified gunmen near Athens on Monday. Turkey's deputy chief of mission Haluk Sipahioğlu was shot in his car at a seaside suburb of Athens. A Foreign Ministry statement said Greek Ambassador Alexander Philonov was summoned by Deputy Foreign Minister Ozdem Sanberk after the incident and told that it was the Greek government's responsibility to assure the safety of the Turkish diplomats. Greek Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias extended his country's condolences to Turkey during his meeting with Turkish foreign minister Hikmet Cetin at the Mediterranean foreign ministers meeting in Egypt, the statement added. "Cetin once again stressed the importance of cooperation against terrorism," it added.

Egypt free last of lawyers

CAIRO (AP) — Five lawyers held for protesting a security crackdown on their colleagues were released Tuesday, ending a two-month confrontation between the government and Egypt's bar association. The five were the last among more than 40 lawyers held since mid-May in connection with a demonstration over the death in custody of attorney Abdul Harith Madani. Police broke up the May 17 protest at the downtown headquarters of the lawyers' syndicate with truncheons and a shower of tear-gas bombs. Led by an independent lawyer, Ahmad Nasser, the five released Tuesday were taken a week after the demonstration for distributing it at a Cairo court anti-government leaflets protesting the arrests and the use of violence against lawyers. Eighteen lawyers mounted a hunger strike late last month to pressure police into releasing their colleagues but ended their fast last week after most lawyers were freed.

COLUMN

King of Norway backs idea of royal 'trade union'

LONDON (AFP) — King Harald V of Norway backed the idea of a royal "trade union" for monarchs to discuss their particular problems in an interview in Tuesday's Telegraph, coinciding with his state visit to Britain. "I think the Prince of Wales said some years ago that we ought to start a trade union. I think it's a very good thing for us to come together and discuss the problems we have because we are the only ones who have them in common," the king said when asked if he felt a need for monarchs to form themselves into a type of club. But he said he wouldn't call it a club, rather a family: "We are related to most of them. There is a strong sense of family." King Harald and his wife Queen Sonja, who arrive in Edinburgh, Scotland, Tuesday, apparently have far fewer problems than Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, who along with other British royals has come under fierce attack in the press. The prince was strongly criticised last week, following his public confession of adultery in a television interview, although he also won considerable support for his honesty. The rule of the Norwegian royals is to avoid all controversy. "The thing we are really, really very careful about is not to say anything critical," said King Harald. And although the king and the queen were prepared to give an interview, there were two preconditions. They would not discuss possible Norwegian entry to the European Community, an issue which has split the country, and they would not talk about the involvement of Crown Princess Marie Louise in a British divorce case. The princess was cited as a co-respondent in the case brought by Irene Morris against her husband Philip, a British show-jumper.

AIDS vaccine volunteers get 2nd injection

BANGKOK (AP) — Medics gave the second round of injections of an experimental U.S.-made AIDS vaccine to 30 volunteers at a Red Cross clinic in Bangkok Monday. The UBI-1 vaccine, manufactured by the American company United Biomedical Inc., is a protein resembling HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. It is designed to encourage the body's immune system to produce antibodies against AIDS. The first injection was given in June. The third and final injection is scheduled for Nov. 21. A doctor at the clinic said five or six of the volunteers had tested positive for HIV since the experiment began, but not due to the vaccine. She said they had been engaging in "high risk" behaviour, possibly under the assumption that the vaccine would make them less vulnerable to infection. HIV is usually transmitted through sexual contact, the sharing of drug syringes, and transfusions of contaminated blood.

N. Zealand doctor misdiagnoses 54 cancer cases

WELLINGTON (R) — A New Zealand doctor, himself suffering from Parkinson's disease, misdiagnosed 54 cancer patients, health officials revealed Tuesday. The doctor, named by the media as senior pathologist James Burkinshaw, misread 54 biopsies. At least five people were incorrectly told they had been cleared of the disease, while another 10 were told they had the disease when they did not. At least two women had breasts removed needlessly. Officials at the central North Island Wanganui Hospital, who revealed the misdiagnoses, apologised for the errors. Surgeons raised the alarm two weeks ago when they found patients' conditions did not match the diagnoses. Checks were made on 1,000 sample diagnoses from a three-year period and 54 mistakes were discovered. Thirty-nine of these cases were correctly treated, however, because surgeons followed their instincts rather than the pathologist's instructions. Dr. Burkinshaw has retired early after 28 years with the hospital. His failing health has been blamed for the mistakes in checking the tissue in biopsies.